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# THE TIMES

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Cookery with  
an Irish  
flavour, page 18

Mr Callaghan pledges early election statement

Prime Minister did everything but name the date of the forthcoming general election when he addressed the TUC at Brighton yesterday. In effect launching Labour's campaign, he hinted broadly that he will announce his intentions soon. He also insisted that pay restraint must remain. If rises exceeded 5 per cent in the coming round, the rate of inflation would rise, again, although certainly not into double figures during 1978.

Lower inflation conditional on 5% pay limit

Unions will have to give from their political funds until it hurts, Mr Callaghan said. "Our strength lies in our solidarity and the determination of those people we have the privilege to lead."

The Prime Minister held out the prospect of five more years of trade union influence on government, conceding that there was much more to be done before Labour could claim to have created a fair and just society. He added: "But although pay is by no means the only factor in inflation, it is a vital factor and, just as important, it is a factor which lies within our own control."

"Our joint agreed statement states that on this there are differences between us. It adds that we have still to reach a national consensus on these matters. True, but the fact that such a consensus does not exist does not diminish the responsibility of the Government. It increases it."

"Without a consensus, Britain is more likely to lag behind a growing number of the world's nations than to lead. Until we reach a consensus, and I will be the first to work with you to try to reach that consensus, the Government must state its views on what is most likely to keep inflation under control."

"You have replied that you cannot accept a centrally fixed figure of 5 per cent because what you want is free collective bargaining, and you also say that while you intend to act responsibly, and I am ready to accept that, you must be free to deal flexibly with terms and conditions of employment."

The figure for increased earnings this year was about 7.1 per cent, though it could be reduced reasonably by 1 or 2 per cent because of self-financing productivity deals.

But the fact that earnings have gone over the 10 per cent mark is making for more difficulty than we need. This larger increase in earnings means that instead of inflation continuing to go down to below the 7 to 8 per cent level, as it would have done, it is now hovering around 8 per cent and could go a little higher, although certainly not into double figures during the rest of this year."

What happened next year depended partly on the level of wage settlements in the coming round, and if negotiations pushed for settlements higher than 5 per cent, then you will be stepping on the escalator going up once again. If you accept 5 per cent in so far as other factors remain constant, then inflation will probably be lower by the end of 1979 than it is today."

He added that British companies must be quick to adapt to changing overseas consumer demands and to develop new products. "For the trade unions, the truth is that there is no way in which low productivity and high real wages can go together for any length of time."

At the close of his speech Mr Callaghan said: "There is work for a Labour government for the next five years as long as there is a family without a home, a man or woman without a job, a sick patient waiting in a hospital queue, someone who suffers from discrimination because of their colour, sex or religion, or someone who is not free to work as they wish. We go forward in partnership in that spirit and with that resolve."

There were cries of "shame" when Mr Callaghan insisted that any reduction in the working week, a prime objective of the unions, was incompatible with the need to create jobs and to raise productivity.

Today delegates will adopt by an overwhelming majority a

Mr Callaghan speech and conference reports 4  
Leading article 15

pay stance that flatly rejects any restrictive government incomes policy, and Conservative critics of the "special relationship" between the TUC and the Government are bound to seize on that division.

The basis on which the unions want to see a government returned was outlined by Mr E. J. Stanley, leader of the Post Office engineers, and a member of the Labour Party's national executive.

He said that the Government should take a more interventionist role in industry through the National Enterprise Board and the development agencies; introduce a wealth tax; increase public spending on the health service and education; ensure a fairer distribution of the nation's wealth; cut unemployment; and increase pensions.

There was practically nothing left for Mr Len Murray to do but to express their hope for peace. Mr Sadat said that time for "work-out ideas" was over and that "together, we shall overcome."

Mr Begin, who arrived from New York, where he had spent the night, promised "all endeavours possible to reach an agreement so that the peace process can continue and ultimately become a peace treaty."

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He went on: "We come here at a crucial crossroads. The challenge is tremendous, but we have no choice but to accept the challenge. We cannot allow the blood of millions to flow over the world."

Dogwood Lodge has been prepared for Mr Sadat and Birch Lodge for Mr Begin. President Carter went to Camp David yesterday and is installed in Aspen, the largest of the guest houses there.

Camp David is run by the Navy and guarded by the Marines, and Mr Carter is consulting on the silent service to keep reporters and television cameras away. The press have taken over every hotel for 20 miles around and are prepared for a long and boring wait for their story.

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Continued on page 2, col 5

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## Airline challenges Nkomo plane crash claim

Frederick Cleary, Salisbury, Sept 5, said that the aircraft, which crashed about 10 minutes after take-off from the Kariba holiday resort airport, had 56 people on board, including 11 children and a crew of four.

The cargo manifest showed that no freight of any kind was carried. Captain Travers said there was no evidence at present to suggest that the aircraft had been brought down by hostile action from Mr Nkomo's or any other forces.

The message from the pilot was explicit. It said that both starboard engines were out of action. "In our opinion, had the aircraft been hit by a missile or any other weapon, the crew's first reaction would have been to say so," he added. From evidence gathered so far, Mr Nkomo's forces were in control of the Viscount to the point of touchdown.

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## Row to ask for secrets as tape recording to be heard in camera

Craig Seton, in prosecution in the Official Secrets Act trial, which is to be heard in camera, yesterday is to ask for the evidence to be recorded in camera, including a recording which is alleged to show a former soldier two journalists secret information about Britain's signals intelligence (Sigint) organization.

The trial, which concerns the disclosure of secrets under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 (details, page two), is to start at least eight days from now, Mr Justice Willis is saying.

He accused as John Berry, 34, a former corporal in the Intelligence Corps, of Wood Lane, London; Duncan Campbell, 25, a journalist with the New Statesman, from London; and Crispin Aubrey, 32, a journalist with the Times, from London. They have been charged with disclosing secrets under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911.

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Continued on page 2, col 5



Gracie Fields, aged 80, at Brighton yesterday with her husband, Mr Boris Alperovici. On a visit from Capri, she will open the Gracie Fields Theatre, Rochdale, on September 16.

## Middle East rivals fly in for summit talks

From Patrick Brogan, Washington, Sept 5

President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Begin, Israel's Prime Minister, flew into Washington this afternoon and were then taken by helicopter to Camp David for their summit meeting with President Carter.

On their arrival here, they both expressed their hope for peace. Mr Sadat said that time for "work-out ideas" was over and that "together, we shall overcome."

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## High Street spending up by 10.4pc yearly

Spending in Britain's High Streets in July was considerably higher than first thought, according to new government figures. They suggest that in the three months to the end of July the volume of retail sales was growing at an annual rate of 10.4 per cent.

Page 19

Leader page 15

"Letters: On trade union power and productivity from Lord Robert and others; Supplying oil to Rhodesia from Mr Bernard Rivers and Mr Martin Bailey; Leading articles: Prime Minister's speech; Camp David meeting; Indian floods; Features, pages 14 and 15; Rhodesia moves back into the dark ages of Gibraltar is casting a shadow, page 16; Sport, pages 9 and 10; Football: Revie wants his case reviewed, McKendrick prepares to join Chelsea; Rugby: Upton: Gerald Davies returns; Cricket: New Zealand lose last match; good draw for Sussex in Giffen Cup next season; The Olympic, page 16; Professor: Herbert Dingle; Metropolitan: Nikodin; Arts, page 17; Paul Griffiths on Sold at the Albert Hall; John Russell Taylor on the end-of-summer exhibitions; Ned Chaffler and Stanley Sadie at the Edinburgh Festival; Irving Wardle on The Seagull at Bristol; Business News, pages 19-24; Stock markets: Equities moved sharply ahead giving shares their best day for 10 months. The FT index added 10.1 to 503.5. City edged better; Financial Editor: An improving trend in money supply; Plessey's confidence; construction: profits bolster BICC; and ship designers: upper IMF; Business Features: Peter Norman assesses the obstacles in the path of the new European monetary system; Bob Crew on closing the gap between politicians and businessmen; Business Diary: What about the managers?

## Strong signs of money supply fall

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

Firm signs appeared yesterday that the measures introduced by the Government earlier this summer to curb excessive monetary growth are starting to work.

Banking statistics for the August banking month indicate strongly that the money supply may have reversed its recent upward trend. The full money supply figures will not be published until Thursday week, but it would seem that sterling M3, the broad-based definition of money supply, could have fallen by up to 1 per cent.

If this proves to be so, it will indicate that the authorities are successfully establishing a grip on the monetary situation and that monetary growth so far in the present financial year will be well below the target of 10 per cent.

Critics of the Government's handling of the monetary situation over the past year will be quick to argue, however, that a degree of underbust at this time may be no bad thing after the high rate of monetary expansion during the 1977-78 financial year, when monetary growth topped 16 per cent. The main premise of the monetarist school of economists is that this excessive growth in the money supply is the principal cause after a time lag, of rising prices.

A counter argument that could well be aired more forcefully is that if monetary growth remains below target for any length of time, however, is that too rigorous a policy of disinflation—progressive reduction

## Ford trying to reach 28,000 Granada owners

By Our Motoring Correspondent

Ford dealers are trying to make contact with the owners of 28,000 Granada cars made before July this year to carry out modifications.

Clamps that have worked loose, causing a vacuum loss in the brake servo system, will be replaced. A carburettor modification entails the fitting of a shield to prevent the possible passage of fuel into the air cleaner. The cooling fan is being replaced on some models because ballrace cracks have been found in the hubs of a few.

Continued on page 19, col 2

## Karpov has day off chess after night out

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Baguio, Sept 5

Anatoly Karpov called off today's game in the world chess championship this morning after attending a dinner here last night for the chess delegations, organizers, arbiters, journalists and all those interested in the match.

The dinner was arranged by Mrs Imelda Marcos, wife of the Philippines President. A tropical storm prevented her from flying in from Manila, but this did not stop the party.

A high time was had by all, particularly by Dr Vladimir Zoukhar, the controversial Soviet parapsychologist. He ended the evening waltzing with one of the girls who had been entertaining the guests with Filipino dances.

Indeed one of the rumours floating around as to the world champion's reasons for postponing today's game is that Dr Zoukhar, who stares incessantly at Viktor Korchinoff during play, was possibly in no fit state to resume his duties the morning after the night before.

When the evening started the Karpov and Korchinoff parties stayed strictly apart in a state of mutual suspicion and only a few of us managed to keep in contact with both.

As time passed and generous hospitality began to have its effect, the atmosphere became more genial and several cases of fraternization were noted.

I had already broken some ice by reintroducing Michael Stean, one of Korchinoff's British seconds, to Karpov, and as Michael is known to entertain a great admiration for the champion, the reintroduction went well.

Later one of the Russians came to the table where I was sitting with the Korchinoff delegation and invited us over to the Soviet table. There we discovered Dr Zoukhar in a state of what would be described in any normal person as intoxication, but being a parapsychologist his condition could well have had something to do with excessive perception.

The force with which he gripped my hand nearly broke my fingers and demonstrated that if he is exerting some parapsychological influence on Korchinoff it is a violent one.

Korchinoff left the festivities at about 10.15 pm, thereby missing the sight of Dr Zoukhar waltzing. Karpov stayed right to the end round midnight.

The postponed game will be played on Thursday.

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Fine Gold Double Knot	9.6 x 7.1	£750	£240
Red Peking Dragon Chinese	3.0 x 5.0	£225	£395
Many Colours Super Chinese	12.0 x 9.0	£1,300	£275

AFGHAN, TURKISH, KASHMIR AND CAUCASIAN			
Geometric, prayer and hunting designs		Usual Price	Reduced Price
Prayer Bokhara	5.0 x 2.11	£26	£45
Gold/Red Afghan	9.4 x 6.5	£425	£285
Turkish Anatolian	5.4 x 3.5	£140	£75
Caucasian Shirvan	8.0 x 4.1	£375	£240
Superb Kashmir Hunting	9.0 x 6.0	£925	£625

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Superb Hain Part-Silk	12.0 x 11.6	£3,500	£1,895
Superb Ispahan Part-Silk	8.2 x 3.8	£2,900	£1,490
Superb Qum Pure Silk	5.8 x 3.5	£3,200	£1,900
Superb Qum Pure Silk	6.10 x 4.7	£3,500	£1,950

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## HOME NEWS

# French building airbus wings in relief that Boeing deal will prevent British partnership

By Arthur Reed  
Correspondent

The main French aircraft manufacturer, Aerospatiale, started to build the wings of the new B10 version of the European Airbus on the assumption that the British aircraft industry will not be tied to join the project, it emerged at the Farnborough Show yesterday.

General Jacques Mitterrand, president of Aerospatiale, said: "Do not wait for government approval. I am proceeding with the building of the wing myself. I have bought the tools."

It could be too late to throw the British to get share in the wings, but it is too late today. Doors are open, but we have to go fast."

The French Government and aircraft industry remain in a state of confusion. The Government is expected to announce a new American aircraft, the Boeing 757, at a cost of £400m, while Britain is expected to enter the rival European aircraft industry as a partner in the B10 200-seater project.

It appeared even stronger at Farnborough yesterday that France will not allow Britain to join the project, unless British Airways orders the B10, which is likely only in the long term.

A senior French industry official said: "Do you believe that Air France would have been allowed to buy American rather than a European airliner? It is quite ridiculous." At British Aerospace, the nationalized aircraft industry, plans to make parts of the B10 are far advanced.

Production of wings, which are being made for the 300-seat B2 and B4 versions of the Airbus, will, it is planned, be increased from three a month to six a month.

But General Mitterrand made it clear yesterday that the Europeans believe they have the skills and the capacity to make the B10 wings themselves, with manufacture in France and West Germany, and final assembly in Germany.

Meanwhile, McDonnell Douglas, the American aircraft company, proposes to manufacture its own 200-seat airliner, the Advanced Technology Medium-Range. If collaboration between Britain and France collapses, they would be prepared to offer themselves as partners with Britain.

British Aerospace yesterday announced plans worth about £80m to develop several existing aircraft projects for the 1980s. It has earmarked £50m for an advanced version of its 125 executive jet, £20m for an advanced version of the jet stream turbo-prop airliner with new engines, and £10m for a development of the 1-11 airliner.

If it joins the European Airbus consortium, British Aerospace will take a fifth share.

Westland, the British helicopter manufacturer, announced that it would collaborate with the French and Italians on its new £1,000m project, the WC24, a large helicopter.

British Aerospace said that it expects to sign a contract shortly worth £30m with the Government of Brunei to supply the Rapier low-level air defence missile system.

The National Union of Teachers is to extend its action over class sizes and teacher employment to 74 more schools, bringing the total to 897.

Union members in 66 Category 1 schools will not replace colleagues absent for more than a day or teach "oversize" classes. They object to the local authority's decision to cut two advisers and 26 teachers from its 1978-79 budget.

Explosives found on Cornish pier

Police in Cornwall were investigating yesterday the discovery of more than 20 rusty but live cannon shells and a large quantity of cordite, found on the Albert pier at Penzance when an old drum split open.

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Canon Stanley Booth-Clibborn, a great-grandson of the founder of the Salvation Army, with his family yesterday after the announcement that he is to be Bishop of Manchester.

## Teachers' action extended to 74 more schools

By Our Education Correspondent

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Union members in 66 Category 1 schools will not replace colleagues absent for more than a day or teach "oversize" classes. They object to the local authority's decision to cut two advisers and 26 teachers from its 1978-79 budget.

Members in eight Basildon secondary schools will not replace colleagues absent for more than a day, in protest over the provision of supply teachers.

Teachers in Surrey, Warwickshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Humberside, Solihull, Bromley and Trafford will not replace colleagues absent for more than a day. In Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Solihull, Humberside and Trafford they will not teach classes of more than 32 in primary schools, or more than 30 in secondary schools.

## Group calls for drive to empty mental hospitals

By Our Social Services Correspondent

A concentrated effort by hospital and social services staff to empty mental hospitals is urged today by Mind, the National Association for Mental Health, in further evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service. That would release more resources for the few who need long-term asylum.

Mental hospitals are being used to paper over the failures of housing, education, employment and welfare services, Mind says. Successive Govern-

ments have recognized that they are the wrong places in which to house, educate and treat mentally ill and handicapped people, but the funds for community based alternatives have not been supplied.

"It is morally wrong and, in practice, detrimental to use mental hospitals as 'botels' for people who need open or sheltered housing or hostels", it says.

Psychiatric treatment has been shown to be more effective in out-patient clinics, day hospitals, health centres or in people's homes, Mind says.

## In brief

### Barrister gets second ban

Mr Roger Dennis Bernard Davies, a barrister, has been banned from practising because of professional misconduct for the second time in 13 months. He practised on the South East Circuit.

At a recent hearing before the disciplinary tribunal of the Senate of the Inns of Court he admitted having acted as a barrister in a case at the City of London Court in April while suspended and receiving a fee for his services. He was ordered to be suspended for a further two years.

### Police seek man

Police investigating the murder of Hazel Booth, a British Airways housewife, are seeking a man aged about 18, between 5ft 8in and 5ft 10in tall, of slim build and with a fair complexion.

### Motorist killed

Mr Richard Smith, aged 31, an accountant, of Upper Farnham, Hampshire, was killed yesterday when his car crashed into a tree in Worplesdon, Surrey.

### Bus crash toll rises

A fourth pensioner, Mrs Agnes Roberts, aged 78, of Eccles, Manchester, has died after the bus crash in Derbyshire last weekend.

### Glider crash death

Eighteen days after his glider nosedived and crashed to the Peak District of Derbyshire, Dr John Richard Allen, aged 26, of Ewesley Road, Sunderland, has died.

## Promise of action on motorway services

By Peter Waymark  
Motorway Correspondent

Mr William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, promised yesterday to consider tender recommendations made by a government committee of inquiry in its report criticising rising and petrol prices on motorways. He added that the government would be prepared to take a smaller return than hitherto on its investment in vice areas.

The report, published yesterday, says that service area operators are not making excessive profits. The committee was headed by Peter Prior, chairman of the motorway industry. He said the industry of a service area ended more on the company than it, and on the local manager, than any other factor. Subject to many honorable exceptions, the present standard management was not always a high order.

Two members of the committee sampled steak and kidney pie at one area and found it to be the worst item they had tried anywhere. Yet manager later pointed to the with genuine pride and said: "That is what Egon says thought was dreadful."

Mr Prior said that on the whole the best service areas were the most profitable, and they made profits because they were good. All the good ones were operated by one or two

companies, and the same applied to the bad ones. Mr Prior, who is at all 39 sites, said food standards varied enormously, but on average they were lower than those in a sample of similar catering establishments off the motorway.

The committee did not find evidence of overcharging. Prices in cafeterias were similar to those off the motorway and motorway restaurants were significantly cheaper.

The price of fuel at service areas was found to be on average 8p a gallon higher than the national average. The committee recommended that a maximum price for each grade should be fixed, similar to the average off-motorway price.

The report suggests that responsibility for allocating and supervising sites should be taken over by a Motorway Service Areas Board. The Government should be prepared to take a smaller rental income, aiming for a 5 per cent return on 60 per cent of its investment. The other 40 per cent should go to providing free facilities for the public such as lavatories and parking.

This should enable service area operators to earn a reasonable profit and improve the standard of service in return for which they would be expected to accept a closer degree of inspection and control.

Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Motorway Services Areas (Stationery Office, £1.25).

Abortion fight woman seeks husband's jailing

Mrs Joan Paton, aged 29, who is a fight to have an abortion just her husband's wishes, said at Birkenhead County Court, Merseyside yesterday that she was sent to prison for disobeying an order not to meet her or communicate with her family.

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**Mr Callaghan rene**

# Call for action

Those who used race as a political platform to gain power were playing a dangerous game, said William Keys, chairman of the NUC Equal Rights Committee, Tuesday. He accused the Conservative Party and Mrs Margaret Thatcher of playing a dangerous game of immigration for political expediency.

It was dishonest and cowardly for a leader of a political party to drop bold hints about new controls on immigration and then give the opposite impression, he said. Those controls, he said, Mr Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, was introducing the TUC General Council's report on equal rights, which the congress adopted.

He said that no single issue debased society so much as the development of racism throughout the world. He said that racism was the worst enemy of the well being of a social demo-

to restore  
the trade union movement than  
that of racism.  
Congress stood against arbitrary  
dismissals from work and work-  
place and was opposed to racism  
and racial discrimination.  
In Britain ethnic minorities  
were not so well represented  
series of attacks and if those  
attacks were allowed to continue  
they would undermine democratic  
society built over centuries.  
In many areas of Britain,  
especially in the East End of  
London, the use of violence  
to promote division and discord  
through campaigns of violence  
and intimidation.  
He and Mr Len Murray visited  
the East End of London recently  
and saw drugs at first hand, thugs  
of the National Front, who  
were concerned to note the fact of  
coloured children on the streets.  
They were absorbed because their  
sons were about to attend

submit them to the baffling activities of such organizations as the National Front.

Action was needed by the police, the Commissioner for Racial Equality and the Government, so that confidence could be restored to citizens irrespective of their color. The police were threatened from the poison of race hatred.

The TUC General Council was concerned that the legal provisions covering the racist activities and incitement to racial hatred were inadequate. They had seen proof of the matches by the hate-mongers in view with a high immigrant population - which had been allowed to proceed unchecked. They had also seen bans on demonstrations applied in such wide-ranging ways as to limit legitimate activities by trade unions.

*"Any law is only as effective as the way it is applied and it is*

# ence of ethn

Public Order Act must be applied more selectively so that we can restore the right to march for those people like trade unionists, who are not specific to those who seek to instigate disorder.

The general council was most concerned at the failure to gain successful prosecutions for incitement to racial hatred. The language of some of those prosecuted had not only been disgustingly offensive to members of the ethnic minorities, but to the vast majority of the community. If the law, as expressed through the Race Relations Act, was unable to clamp the tongue, Martin Wells and Crispin Read said, it had to be strengthened, he said. The general council was discussing with the Labour Party ways to achieve that.

As the country was turning to a general election, certain people of different ethnic groups would

# ic minorities

using the language and arguments of racism, encouraged "racial thoughts and attitudes in others."

"I refer particularly to the policy statement issued recently by the National Student Reliance on Immigration and the remarks of Miss Thatcher," he contended.

"There was not policy suitably backed up by statute. No explanation was given for its conclusions. "Quite bluntly," he said, "it was a statement of political expediency. We would seek to warn those who use race as a political platform to gain power; we are playing a very dangerous game."

"It is dishonest. It is cowardly. For leaders of political parties to drop hard hits about new comers on immigration and then give soft and feeble answers as to what sort of control they want is a stark difference they would not make."

"When these people talk about colour, they want the electorate to think about race, about colour, not to think about it with hostility, but that hostility directed to the coloured men and women. No over-lap operation by the Moderates of the Tory Party can undo the damage done."

The sole criticism of Parliament would be at all times to judge the Government, irrespective of which party it was, on the basis of whether they were socially responsible. At no time should the consideration of expediency be used to justify such policies, he said.

The UJC should expose the "racism and racism of those who talked and behaved like racists. Ethnic minorities should be given a new confidence that so important a section of British society was on the side of the peaceful development of a multi-racial society."

[illegible]

ed. The official had written that he had received information from two workers at the plant in a police officer. The information was inaccurate and not of value.

The Home Secretary, in reply, said he had received a report on the case and an assurance that the use of the information had been given by a "Special Branch" officer who was called to the factory deal with allegations of industrial sabotage.

Mr. Rees said he could not comment on the workings of the Special Branch but Mr. Grievie's statements about the use of photographs is born out in some extent by a number of documented cases where photographs have been used at meetings.

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## Red bid to fail

Mr. Sidney Weichell, leader of the Communist Party, said today that the party's bid to win a seat in the House of Commons at the next general election was "a long way from being a realistic proposition."

From Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

Mr Terence Duffy, president-elect of the Amalgamated Union of

The Prime Minister arrived with his wife through the back entrance and police quickly formed a cordon to usher them through

## in pensions

2

port of the trade union movement for the return of a Labour government with a working majority at the next general election was carried after the Prime

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"We know who our friends are and we know, in spite of the dif-

49

employers' organization, and so is any organization which seeks to cure from the Government action; the interests of those people from they represented," he said.

هكذا من الرأى

Mr. Robert Gartland, moderate  
general secretary of the Foundry  
Union of the Amalgamated  
Union of Engineering Workers

1.

ers: Mr Reginald Birch, Mr  
n Buyd and Mr Tcrenre Duffy,  
the AUEW; Mr George Gny,  
the Sheet Metal Workers; Mr  
neth Gill of Tans; Mr Cive

e Patterson, of the I&GWC.



## HOME NEWS

## Muslim members in a reformed Lords suggested by Liberals

By George Clark

Representation in a reformed House of Lords for Muslims and people of other faiths, including humanists, as well as the 81 directly elected United Kingdom members of the European Parliament, and abolition of hereditary seats are ideas raised in a Liberal Party interim report on reform, published yesterday.

It also points out that at present there is no MP from the ethnic minorities in Britain and says "this is better put right by a multi-member proportional representation system which would remove the electoral handicap from which the ethnic minorities now suffer. The French Senate includes a handful of representatives of French citizens resident overseas; we could follow suit."

The report asks whether bishops of the Church of England should continue to have 24 seats in the Lords when Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and Muslim have no official representatives there. There were many thousands of people of the Islamic faith in the United Kingdom said Mr Michael Smith, lecturer in politics at Manchester University, president-elect of the party and co-author of the Liberal's machinery of government panel.

Various interest groups should be a part of the process, he said. It is a question of the suggestion that the House of Lords should be divided on the issue but it needed to be considered as part of any reform.

It has to be looked at in the context of the suggestion that the House of Lords should be a corporate representation should extend not only to the churches, but also to trade unions, cul-

tural and business organizations. "Within the working party a majority resisted the idea of corporate representation."

The report reaffirms the party's commitment to a federal system where the second Chamber, referred to as "the senate", would consist of members elected from the regional "states", but the group recognizes that that must wait upon a reform of the Commons achieved by the introduction of proportional representation.

As an interim move towards reform, it proposes that membership through hereditary succession should be ended (the cut-off date being named in the necessary legislation) and that the British European MPs should be members during the period of their membership of the Strasbourg Assembly. The group thought that would keep the Euro-MPs in touch with Westminster politics.

The group also refers to the need for a new group of seats for the other major political parties. "It is not easy to find the best way of producing this group," the report states.

The group suggests that the Scottish and Welsh assemblies, if established, should elect some of their members to the Lords for their terms of office as assemblies.

Appointment of life peers by the Prime Minister, and what has become an informal arrangement with the Opposition whereby senior MPs can retire to the Lords, is recognized as having certain advantages, but the Liberal group thinks that element in a reformed House should be severely limited.

Reform of the House of Lords, Interim Report, (Liberal Publication Department, 9 Poland St, London W1, 25p).

## Smallpox victim: father dies of heart attack

From Arthur Osman

Birmingham  
Mr Frederick Whitcomb, the father of Mrs Janet Parker, the Birmingham smallpox victim, collapsed and died yesterday, apparently from a heart attack, four days after he entered the same Solihull isolation hospital in which his daughter is being treated after complaining that he felt unwell.

Health officials said that Mr Whitcomb, aged 71, had no clinical symptoms of smallpox. It was said yesterday that Mrs Parker's condition, which had been reported as satisfactory since she was admitted to hospital on August 24, had improved.

The condition of Professor Henry Bedson, aged 49, the head of the microbiology laboratory thought to be the source of the infection, who was found with his throat cut last Friday, remained critical yesterday.

## Agreement on new rules for Channel safety

By Our Shipping Correspondent

New measures to improve the safety of shipping in the Channel were agreed yesterday when the Anglo-French Safety of Navigation Group met in London.

From January 1 all ships of more than 1,600 tons carrying oil or other potentially dangerous cargoes through the Channel will be required to report to monitoring stations on entering the Channel.

Any ship in difficulty will also be required to report on entering the Channel.

Longer-term proposals for traffic management, such as a "Trafalgar Channel" motorway, were also discussed by the British and French panels. No decisions were reached but studies will go ahead as rapidly as possible, the Department of Trade said.

## Orders laid to restrict haddock catches

By Hugh Clayton

Ministers acted yesterday without EEC permission to restrict catches of haddock in British waters. Haddock will now be covered by conservation rules similar to those in force for other species. Traditional haddock delicacies, such as the Arbroath Smokie, should be saved from the extinction that threatens the kipper.

Three orders were laid yesterday which will strengthen the national laws that protect the coast in the absence of EEC agreed protection measures. One order revokes a rule about haddock catches. Another imposes a catch limit for British trawlers fishing to the west of Scotland.

The third imposes a catch limit in the important haddock grounds of the North Sea and requires all British fishermen catching there to hold licences. None of the rules will apply to foreign boats. They have been imposed because of scientific evidence to the Government that the British catch of haddock this year is dangerously near the safe limit.

The haddock catch in England and Wales in the first five months of this year was down by a quarter in little more than 9,000 tonnes compared with the corresponding period of 1977. The fish is one of the most important and valuable species for canners and frozen food companies.

## Artist sheds some light on Constable attribution

By Kenneth Gossling

Mr Richard Constable, great-grandson of the landscape painter, shed more light yesterday on the habits and work of some of his ancestors.

Few paintings by John Constable had had to be reattributed. Lionel, the artist's son, appeared to have been the artist in those cases, Mr Constable, who was speaking at his own one-man show in Chelsea, said.

He said that some of the confusion had arisen because his great-grandfather had inherited the "terrible problem" of hundreds of scraps of paper referring to paintings by the Constable family. He had written on the back of a work by Lionel that it was by his brother Charles.

"My great-grandfather was always talking about going round exhibitions and seeing paintings were not by John Constable, but he never said they were by Lionel or Alfred, another of John's sons; they were usually by other people entirely," Mr Constable said he did not believe Lionel had worked very hard. "A lot of the Constables at that time lived that kind of life; Lionel might pick up a brush now and again and dabble around."

## Soviet protest

The Russian Government has

protested to the Royal Navy that the 6,000-ton naval training ship, Smolny, was fired on by the 3,250-ton frigate Antelope off the Isle of Wight, on August 15.

The Antelope was firing her 4.5in automatic gun during calibration trials in the Portsmouth practice area when a live round landed at least a mile ahead of the Soviet ship.

## Naval pilot on rent charges

From Our Correspondent

While on exchange service in Germany, a British naval pilot, Lt William Hill, aged 27, a naval pilot, is paid a rent allowance by local naval authorities, but the time was well aware that he was getting a similar allowance from his home base, HMS Intrepid, in Britain. It was alleged at a court martial at Devonport, Somerset, yesterday.

Lieutenant Hill, now serving on HMS Gannet at Portland, denied three charges alleging that during his stay of

just over two years in Germany he dishonestly obtained a total of £1,573.

Lieutenant-Commander T. A. Chirch, for the prosecution, said Mr Hill's replacement in Kiel discovered the payments by the German navy and said he intended to inform the commanding officer of HMS Centurion. Mr Hill told him that he knew nothing of such payments and threatened to prosecute the officer for fraud.

The hearing continues today. The hearing continues today.

## Many places still available at universities

Thousands of university

places for degree courses beginning this autumn are still available in about forty subjects, including mathematics, modern languages, chemistry, physics, philosophy, and several branches of engineering, the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) announced yesterday.

Every year universities fill about one eighth of their places with the UCCA clearing scheme in September. That enables candidates who have not received firm offers of places to be considered for courses at universities to which they have not applied.

Last year more than 25,000 candidates were considered in the September clearing scheme, and more than 9,500 accepted places.

Candidates with at least two A levels or their equivalent should write by September 15 to The Secretary, UCCA, PO Box 25, Chesham, Bucks HP8 4JH, enclosing a "late application" and enclosing a fee of £2.

## WEST EUROPE

## Orthodox leader dies at papal audience

Rome, Sept 5.—Metropolitan Nikodim of Leningrad and Novgorod collapsed and died in front of the Pope during an audience today, Vatican officials said.

The Metropolitan, who was 48 and one of the most senior leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church, died of a heart attack during the Pope's private library during an audience of delegations from Orthodox churches.

The Russian prelate came to Rome for the funeral of Pope Paul and remained in the city for the inauguration ceremony of his successor Pope John Paul on Sunday.

Metropolitan Nikodim had the distinction of becoming the world's youngest archbishop at 32 when he was elevated to the seat of Yaroslavl and Kostrom in 1961. He became Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod in 1967.

He had had a brilliant career since 1946 when, as a 17-year-old student, he became a monk. He took a theology degree by correspondence course, graduating in 1955, and from 1957-58 was in the Russian Orthodox mission in Jerusalem, ending up as its head.

Relations between the Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox Churches gradually improved after the Second Vatican Council which paved the way for a dialogue between the Christian churches with the aim of eventual unification. —Reuter

The World Council of Churches expressed grief at the death of Metropolitan Nikodim, who was one of its six presidents.

A telegram to Patriarch Pimen of Moscow and all Russia congratulated the Moscow Patriarch on his loyal support of the council from then until his death. —AP

Obituary, page 16

## Andreotti visit to Spain for talks on EEC

Madrid, Sept 5.—Signor

Giulio Andreotti arrived here today for a two-day official visit, the first to Spain by an Italian Prime Minister in this century.

After arrival, Signor Andreotti was driven to the residence of Senor Adolfo Suarez, the Spanish Prime Minister, for the first of two talks to boost the world economy.

One of the main items on the agenda is Spain's application to join the EEC. Italy strongly supports Spain's entry, as Italian officials believe that both countries could try to alter the balance of agricultural policy in their favour.

The two Prime Ministers are also expected to discuss terrorism. Among other subjects, there is Spain's trade deficit with Italy, Spanish exports to Italy, and the doubling in the past three

## Schmidt attack on terrorists

Bonn, Sept 5.—Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, called on parliamentarians from more than 70 countries today to deny terrorists a refuge anywhere.

Herr Schmidt asked the conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union here to "clearly and publicly" underwrite the anti-jacking agreement signed by the seven heads of government who took part in the Bonn summit meeting of the world's highest industrial democracies in July.

It must be made clear to potential perpetrators of terrorist acts that there is no haven for them, no place where they can live without fear of prosecution and gather

their strength while they plan new attacks", Herr Schmidt said.

The Chancellor called for the integration of the developing countries into the global economy, and the further opening of markets in the industrial countries to Third World products.

He denounced the policy of apartheid practised in South Africa, which is not a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Herr Schmidt, who said southern Africa was in danger of becoming an area of international conflict, reiterated that he will not support economic sanctions against South Africa because they would do more

harm than good. "Whoever destroys the basis for the growth of African economies today destroys also the opportunities for, and the hopes of, future generations in these countries." —UPI

Patricia Clough writes from Bonn: Right-wing and left-wing extremists have much greater sexual problems than politically moderate young people, according to a sociological study in Heidelberg.

A study by Dr Ronald Grossarth-Maticek of 84 left-wing and 84 right-wing students with two apolitical control groups showed that both groups of radicals have great difficulties in achieving orgasm.

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Car that runs on rum without a hiccup

From John Earle

Fiat is ready to produce a car running on rum, but not yet apparently on whisky. Senor Aldo Neves Martins da Costa, chairman of the Italian car company's Brazilian subsidiary, has handed over a prototype alcohol-fuelled Fiat 147, a version of the Fiat 127, to a sugar cane producers' cooperative in the state of Minas Gerais.

He said commercial production awaited only the Government go-ahead. That should be given by the end of the year, even if many European countries would be only too glad to lessen their dependence on oil imports.

Britain, with its North Sea oil, is already in a happier position. Scots need have no fear of their whisky being diverted.

For the Italians, the need would be greater, but it seems the economics of making alcohol from grapes or sugar beet would be very different to cane.

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Euthanasia trial: Miss Berit Hedeb, a journalist charged with manslaughter for helping an incurably ill man to die, enters a Stockholm court room with Mr Carl-Erik Lindahl, her counsel. She claims that Mr Sven Erik Handberg, who was suffering from chronic multiple sclerosis asked her to help him to take his own life with an overdose of insulin. She claims that a suicide is not a crime, therefore assisting suicide cannot be a crime either. Her co-defendant, Dr Ragnac Toss, is accused of complicity in supplying the drug. A television crew of three were yesterday fined 200 krona (€23) each for filming the defendants in court.—UPI.

## Mystery of DC3 that vanished off Sicily

From Ian Murray

Paris, Sept 5  
At 10.30 am on July 28 an old DC3 took off from Palermo airport in Sicily and set a course eastwards for Brindisi. Seven minutes later the control tower at the airport heard a fast short message from the aircraft, and since then it seems to have disappeared from the face of the earth.

Despite its age the DC3 was in excellent condition, having been completely renovated shortly before it disappeared. Investigations by security services from Italy, France and America show that there was something very mysterious from the beginning of its last known flight.

The aircraft had once belonged to Air Cahon, who sold it to General Air Service, based at Nice airport. Thoroughly overhauled the DC3 was then sold to a M. Roger Teysseire for 470,000 francs (€52,000) and a few days later sold it to a man apparently using an alias for 500,000 francs, paid in cash.

The average price of a DC3 is only about 100,000 francs these days. The purchaser said he had an important and urgent job to do with it as a supply aircraft in Thailand. M. Teysseire, who is a private pilot at Rodez near Avignon, suggested two colleagues to the purchaser to act as pilots. They were M. Roland Raucoille, aged 43, and M. Philippe Tourat, aged 30. The former had a long career as a mercenary pilot, flying notably into Biafra during the Nigerian war.

The aircraft was loaded at Toulouse with a cargo of empty oil barrels and a pump—which could be used to carry extra fuel as a means of extending its range. On July 27 it flew from Toulouse to Palermo, bearing the registration number F-B 1EE. That night the three men booked into the Baia Verde Hotel, but M. Tourat is now known not to have spent the night there.

The following morning they went to the airport to see off the DC3's last flight. The purchaser was now travelling under a different alias. Their flight plan mapped a route to Thailand via Brindisi.

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The man who dreamt...  
...the Trade Unions ran the Government  
with a million and a half unemployed.  
And woke to find it had happened under Socialism.

Issued by Aims in the interest of a return to Freedom and Enterprise. Aims, the free enterprise organisation, 5 Pough Place, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AN







## OVERSEAS

Delhi awaits  
climax  
of monsoon  
floodsfrom Richard Wigg  
Delhi, Sept 5

At least 20 people were drowned when the overcrowded boat in which they were seeking to escape the flood waters invading their homes, capsized near the Wazirabad barrage on the Yamuna (Jumna) river, five miles above Delhi early today. Eight bodies have been recovered so far.

After a day-long evacuation and rescue operation the Delhi authorities were tonight bracing themselves for the possible final onslaught of the flood waters. "Tonight will be a crucial period as the Yamuna is still rising," Mr D. R. Kohli, the capital's Lieutenant-Governor, said this evening.

Flood waters burst into seven residential suburbs of north Delhi during the night. The suburbs included the Jangpura middle-class "model town", whose main street was flooded up to waist height. This is the first time the suburb has been under water which confirms the fears that this year's monsoon season will be the worst in the Indian capital in living memory.

Water has entered the homes of about 350,000 people in various parts of the 575 square mile Union Territory in which the capital lies. About 200,000 people are being moved, or are moving themselves, to "safer places," the city's chief executive told reporters today.

Mr Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister, flew in an Indian Air Force Avro aircraft over some of the worst affected areas today.



Rescuers use inflated car tyres to save seven boys from a village in the Midnapore area in eastern India, where floods have killed hundreds of people and left two million homeless.

Out by the Wazirabad barrage, which could be approached only on foot, the mass of muddled flood waters carrying thick clumps of vegetation, was building up rapidly. It is estimated to reach a volume of 500,000 cu ft of water a second by tomorrow, when it is expected to be at its highest. After about 12 hours the water should subside.

In the flooded suburbs near Delhi University people were going back to salvage their possessions, wading knee-deep in water and finding their homes partly submerged. Amid the confusion and swirling waters,

a family group ploughed sadly on bearing a dead relation on a simply draped bier over their heads.

At the central flood forecasting unit here, whose slender resources are overtaxed, Dr Ramakrishna Rao, the deputy director, estimated that the water level of the Yamuna which flows beside Old and New Delhi would reach 681.8 ft above sea level, breaking all records by tomorrow as Delhi's old railway bridge. This was 9 ft above the danger mark when, in normal times, the unit started issuing flood risk warnings to the low-lying districts.

Four of Delhi's road and rail bridges were closed to traffic from midnight for as long as 12 hours.

The old railway bridge, built by the British more than 100 years ago to take the line from Calcutta into Punjab, is under serious strain.

If the Yamuna flood waters breach the old bridge, the pressure on a second Delhi embankment on the eastern side of the city will prove too much, and a densely populated area along that bank would be the next to suffer. Dr Rao, however, said that the flood waters would enter the centre of New Delhi.

It was the breaking of an embankment in north Delhi during the night which led to the sudden flooding of the model town. Today access was possible only by a subsidiary road. People were taking refuge in the upper storeys of houses where they were marooned. The authorities last night failed to persuade the inhabitants of some south Delhi residential districts to leave their well-built middle-class homes.

Announcing that the water will be "slightly turbid" during the next days, the Delhi authorities have told the inhabitants to boil water for drinking. Leading article, page 15

Peking accuses Hanoi  
of cutting rail link

Hongkong, Sept 5.—China today accused Vietnam of blocking a key railway border crossing and lodged a strong protest in which it said Hanoi must bear full responsibility for the consequences.

The New China news agency said the Vietnamese had blocked a bridge at the Friendship Pass border crossing, which has been a focal point of tension between the two countries since a mass exodus of ethnic Chinese who claimed they had been persecuted in Vietnam.

The agency said the Vietnamese had blocked the bridge by pushing a railway wagon on to it and surrounding it with barbed wire.

A protest delivered by Mr Shen Ping, director of the department of Asian affairs at the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said the suspension of rail traffic violated a bilateral agreement.

He accused Hanoi of deliberately trying to worsen relations

by its "arrogant behaviour". The Friendship Pass border crossing was the scene of a bloody clash last month in which a number of people were killed and 2,500 Chinese fled from Vietnam in panic.

Peking later accused Vietnamese troops of occupying a ridge inside Chinese territory. Hanoi denied this and accused China of sending its forces to occupy a hill in Vietnam.

Negotiations between the two countries on who is to blame for the reported exodus of 160,000 Chinese from Vietnam are expected to resume shortly.

China has also accused Vietnamese troops of crossing its border on kidnapping missions. The New China news agency said last night that since the Friendship Pass incidents, Vietnam had "time and again sent armed military men and police to seize into Chinese territory in the vicinity of the pass to try to abduct Chinese borderland inhabitants".—Reuter.

General goes  
as Romania  
purges  
secret police

From Dossa Trevisan  
Belgrade, Sept 5

General Teodor Coman, the Romanian Minister of the Interior, has been dismissed without an official reason being given. His departure comes six weeks after a leading Romanian security officer, Lieutenant General Ion Pacepa, defected to the West.

General Pacepa was believed to have been flown to the United States by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Since the defection which started an intensive investigation of the security forces, reports from Bucharest indicate widespread arrests in which at least a dozen leading officials, among them several generals, have been involved. The purge has spread from the capital to the provinces and foreign observers believe that up to 100 middle-rank officials have also been arrested.

General Coman has been absent from public life for some time and recently, another high-ranking security official was dismissed having only recently been appointed Minister of Tourism.

General Nicolae Doicaru was Deputy Interior Minister and regarded as a powerful figure in the security police. He, too, departed without explanation.

General Coman, who was also a member of the political executive committee of the Romanian Communist party and the Defence Council, is succeeded by the little-known Mr George Homostean.

## Hua tour seen as success

Peking, Sept 5.—Chairman Hua Kuo-feng arrived here today after his long official trip to East Europe and Iran which has confirmed him as an international statesman.

Party and state leaders were at the airport to greet him, together with Romanian, Yugoslav and Iranian diplomats representing the countries he visited.

The Foreign Office said an invitation to the Chinese Foreign Minister was outstanding since the late Mr Anthony Crosland as Foreign Minister visited China in 1976.

other trips to the West, starting next year. —Agence France Presse.

British invitation: Mr Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister, has been invited to visit Britain. He may make a brief stay in London next month on his way home from the United Nations in New York (the Press Association reports).

The Foreign Office said an invitation to the Chinese Foreign Minister was outstanding since the late Mr Anthony Crosland as Foreign Minister visited China in 1976.

Wife of President Marcos  
nominated for Nobel  
prize after Gaddafi meeting

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Manila, Sept 5

President Ferdinand Marcos's wife Imelda, sometimes known as "the iron butterfly of Asia", has been nominated as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

A committee of four eminent Filipinos, led by Mr Fred Ruiz Castro, Chief Justice, said today that Mrs Marcos, the strong-willed Governor of Manila City, deserved the prize because she flew in Libya in 1976 and 1977 to persuade President Gaddafi to mediate in the fighting between Filipino troops and Muslim rebels in the southern islands of Mindanao.

A telegram submitting Mrs Marcos's name as a candidate for the prize has been sent to Mr Jacob Sverdrup, chairman of the Nobel Committee in Oslo.

Reports of her nomination were removed from local newspapers today at the request of the Government. It is suggested that the regime might be embarrassed by the increasing number of attempts to heap new titles and praise on the President's wife.

In the past Mrs Marcos has been criticized both at home and abroad for the extravagant use of public funds on questionable projects.

A part from Mr Castro, who is presiding over the trial of President Marcos's political adversary, Mr Benigno Aquino, the committee consists of Mr

Blas Ople, the Minister of Labour; Mr Ramon Fernandez, an associate judge of the Supreme Court; and Mr Virgilio Dionisio, a member of the new interim National Assembly.

The committee's announcement said: "No woman has worked as hard for her people as Mrs Marcos. She has travelled more than 20,000 miles and braved the dangers of the skies to meet an unknown man in the desert of Libya for the sake of peace for 44 million people."

As well as being Governor of Manila Mrs Marcos is the Minister for Human Settlements, a Cabinet post which puts her in charge of urban development. She is also an elected member of the National Assembly.

Last month a group within the ruling party suggested that Mrs Marcos should be vested with the powers of Deputy Prime Minister, a post which would give her effective power if her husband, who is Prime Minister as well as President, were incapacitated. This suggestion was criticized today by members of the opposition.

Mrs Marcos has so far indicated that she is not interested in the post, but critics point out that in the past she has assumed more and more power after initially turning down new titles.

Mr Fukuda in  
Iran at start  
of Gulf tour

Teheran, Sept 5.—Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, whose nation is a big buyer of Middle East oil, arrived here today to begin a tour of Gulf countries.

The main purpose of the visit is to expand economic relations between Iran and Japan. Mr Fukuda is hoping to receive guarantees of a stable oil supply to his country while Iran remains keen on tapping Japanese technological expertise.

Trade between the two countries has multiplied tenfold in the past decade. Japan is also a partner with Iran in the construction of the largest petrochemical complex in the Middle East at Bandar Shapur.

Mr Fukuda will meet the Shah tomorrow before starting formal talks with Mr Jafar Shari'Emami, Iran's new Prime Minister. His arrival comes a week after the visit of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng of China to Teheran.

Mr Fukuda is accompanied by his Foreign Minister, Mr Sumo Sonoda.—AP.

Indian group  
joins Cabinet in  
Sri Lanka

From Our Correspondent  
Colombo, Sept 5

The executive council of the Ceylon Workers' Congress today authorized its president, Mr Sivumiamoorthy Thondaman, to accept the invitation made by President Jayewardene to join the Cabinet.

In a statement the council said that the new constitution for the first time "affords the people of Indian origin the opportunity to come into the mainstream of national life". It endorsed Mr Thondaman's actions in taking part in the deliberations of the select committee which drafted the constitution and in voting for it.

The decision of the Ceylon Workers' Congress, which has a membership of about 400,000 plantation workers of Indian origin, marks the final break with the Tamil United Liberation Front which represents the minority Tamils of Sri Lanka origin.

Members of the Tamil Front will not attend the ceremonial inauguration of the new constitution on Thursday but will take their oath under it at a later date.

Japanese allowed to fish  
in New Zealand waters

From Our Correspondent  
Wellington, Sept 5

After protracted negotiations the Japanese fishing fleet can return to New Zealand waters to fish in the recently extended economic zone of 200 miles. Russian and South Korean boats have had access almost since the declaration of the zone in April. Though the Japanese had fished the area more extensively than other foreign fleets, they had first to overcome New Zealand's insistence that their right to continue to do so was conditional on easier access for New Zealand farm products to the Japanese market.

Japanese officials were reluctant to relate the two issues. Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, took a prominent part in the negotiations.

It is understood that the final agreement does not incorporate

any undertaking by the Japanese to widen access to their market for New Zealand agricultural produce. Nevertheless Mr Muldoon expects that concessions will be granted. Mr Brian Talboys, the Foreign Minister, told Parliament last week that New Zealand was likely to gain improved access over the next few months.

Japan's response to New Zealand's trade overtures is expected to influence the size of quotas for catches when they come up for the annual review. Mr Muldoon has reminded the Japanese that the quota is still regarded as a trade lever.

Under the quotas announced yesterday Japan is entitled to catch 100,000 tonnes of fish. This is less than half the quantity Japan caught last year when the waters were not controlled. The Russians are allotted 60,000 tonnes and the South Koreans 32,000.

Six really  
clever excuses for  
going through  
a car windscreen.

You are twice as likely to be killed or seriously injured in the event of a road accident if you are not wearing a seat belt. Yet only one driver in five regularly wears a seat belt.

Most of the people who are catapulted through car windcreens had perfectly reasonable-sounding excuses for not wearing a seat belt—here are just six of them.

Perhaps you've used one or two yourself.

**1 "A belt could trap you if the car caught fire"**  
An excellent excuse for not wearing a seat belt. Except, of course, that less than 0.5% of serious casualties result from accidents involving fire.

But if you were unlucky enough to be involved in such an accident, and you weren't wearing a seat belt, there's a high probability of you being injured or knocked unconscious so you wouldn't be able to escape anyway.

**2 "I've been driving for twenty years without a belt, and I've never had an accident"**  
A well-tried excuse, this, which has stood the test of time. It conveniently ignores the fact that the driver who runs into you head-on at 50 m.p.h. may well have been driving for only 3 weeks. Or that he may have defective brakes. Or that he may be drunk. But if you're absolutely certain that you're not going to meet with him one day, it's not a bad excuse.

**3 "I'm not going far so it's not worth the trouble of wearing a belt"**  
Perhaps the most popular excuse of all. Maybe because about 70% of all fatal and serious accidents happen in built-up areas. It's certainly the excuse most commonly heard in casualty departments. Colliding head-on at 30 m.p.h. with even

a stationary object is the equivalent of falling from the roof of a three-storey house—is your steering wheel really the thing you'd most like to land on?

**4 "It's better to be thrown clear in a crash"**  
A pretty specialised excuse, this one, used by a lot of people who 'know a thing or two' about cars. Experience suggests that the opposite is true.

In accidents on ordinary roads, ejection at least doubles the risk of being killed. And a twelve-month survey of serious accidents on British race club tracks showed that the risk of serious injury was far greater if a driver was completely or partially ejected from the car.

**5 "It's really chicken to wear a seat belt"**  
Gosh, what an intelligent excuse. There's no answer to that, is there? It's a really popular excuse among those boys who regard driving as a form of combat, the lads who see their cars as mechanical virility symbols. Of course the men who race saloon cars at Silverstone wear seat belts, but what do they know about driving? And if you do use this excuse, and you have a shunt, just think how impressed the lads down the pub will be when you show them your scars.

**6 "Belts are no use in certain sorts of accidents"**  
A highly plausible excuse, because it's perfectly true that in some accidents, wearing a seat belt could not save you. But the majority of cars involved in road accidents collide head-on with another vehicle or an obstruction. And it's in these accidents that seat belts are at their most effective. But go on using this excuse if you can arrange to be wearing a seat belt for those accidents where a belt could save your life.



CLUNK-CLICK

If you don't wear a seat belt, you double your risk.



**SECRETARIAT**

**REQUIRED**

**PROBATIONARY DAILY HELP** and  
London Domestic Apy, S  
51.



There had been some surprise after the disappointing display against the Netherlands at Bishop's Stortford. The young side who beat Scotland 2-0 in the friendly included some of the players, Westcott, Watson, Duthie and Godwin. Scotland, in spite of their skills, have fallen too far behind the good teams and are finding it difficult to improve on their seventh position in Madrid.

There could be more complications.

Group A		Group B	
Spain	1-0	Netherlands	1-0
England	1-0	Belgium	0-0
Scotland	0-2	France	0-0
Sweden	1-0	USSR	0-0
Switzerland	1-0	Canada/USA	0-0

**Squash rackets**

**STOCKHOLM:** World series, semi-final round: Nidey, Johan (Pakistan) beat G. Hinnl, Australia, 9-1, 6-7, 3-9, 9-2; Qamar, Zaman (Pakistan) beat B. Browdice (NZ), 4-9, 9-1, 9-2, 9-0.

Esley Crawford, their Olympic coach, told metics clung to it as the other special guest...but he will not run against Allan Wells, who has entered for only the 100-metre dash.

Geoffrey Capes, who was disqualified from the European 100-metre final, altered his plans by handing an official request to act on the spot, although his

Prague to my superiors as a matter of courtesy and as far as the police are concerned, no action will be taken. They feel the Prague Incident is best forgotten and that I should go all out now to prepare for the events in Austria", he said.

Capes returns home early on Sunday, but will be in London for Great Britain against Finland at Crystal Palace the same day.

before premature night fall, coming home to 35, two under par, but she came back to 36, and has played for Lancashire and set a record of 73 on this course when wearing its northern junior championship last year. She started as she meant to equal that record, going out in 35 with two birdies and nothing over par, but she came badly unstuck in the short 10th and long 11th, dropping



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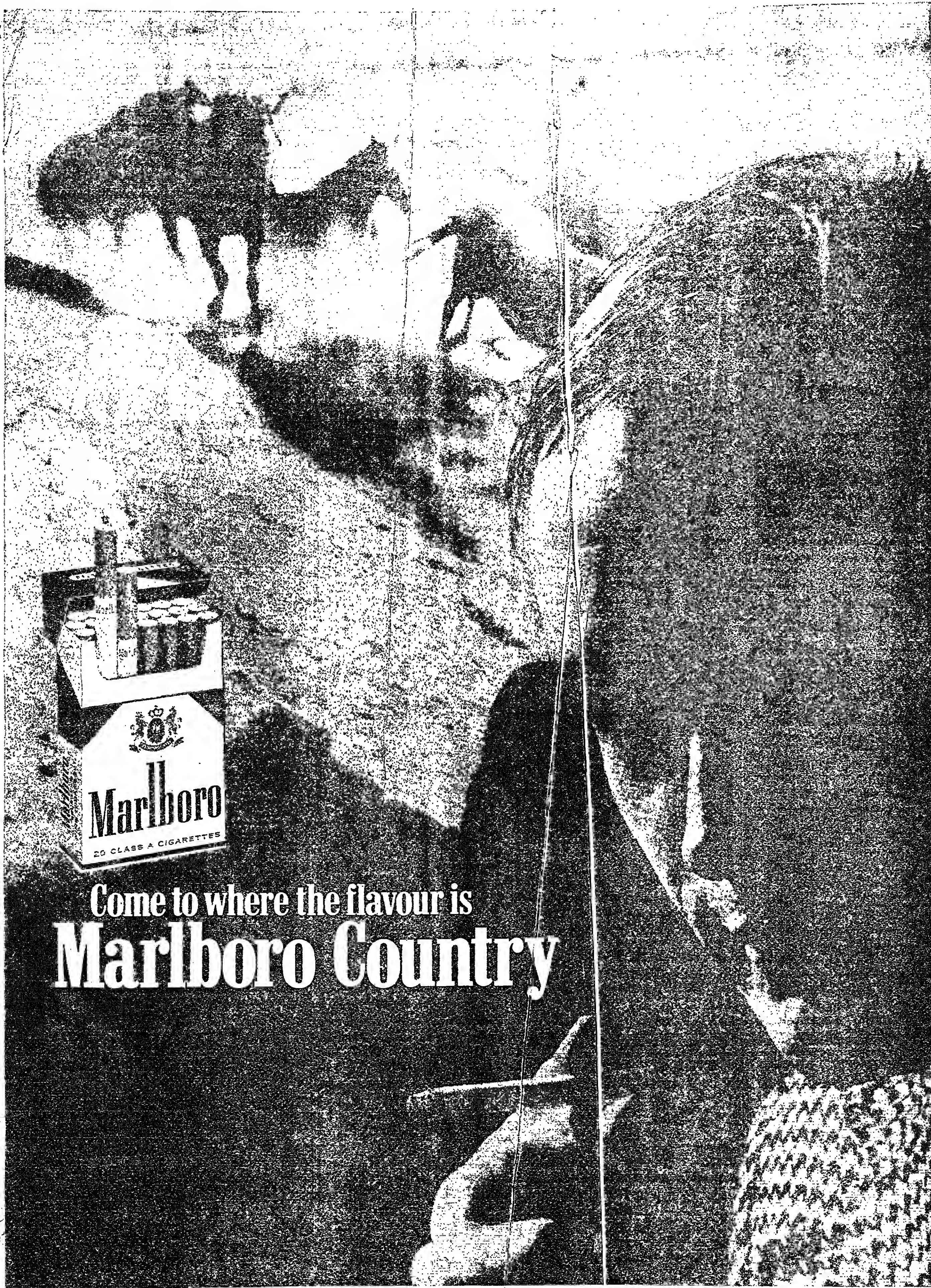
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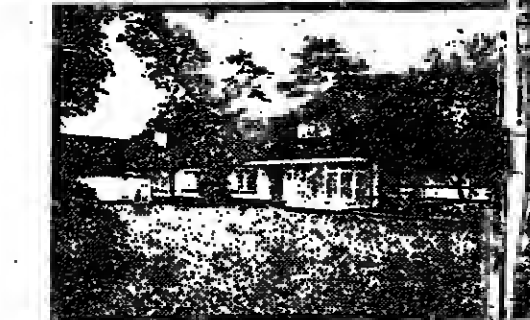
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# SWAZILAND

## Paternal government for no-party state

by Denis Taylor

Swaziland reaches the tenth anniversary of its independence as a kingdom inside the British Commonwealth today with one of the healthier black African economies, but faced by continuing constraints on its freedom to conduct genuinely independent policies.

This beautiful country, reminiscent in places of both Switzerland and the Highlands of Scotland, has an area of 17,364 square miles, half the size of Holland, and a population of little more than 500,000. It is one of the few countries in the world which has a remarkably self-contained atmosphere. Unlike most African states, which are legacies of arbitrary lines drawn on the map by European colonizers, Swaziland is ethnically more of a unit.

Britain took over Swaziland in 1902 in the aftermath of the South African war. Swaziland had become a protected dependency of the Boers in 1894, but King Bhebe had appealed for British protection when charged with murder after the execution of a Swazi official. The King was in fact tried by the British and punished with a fine of £500.

The Swazi have a distinct pattern of kingship and see themselves as different from non-Swazi, black and white. King Sobhuza II, his ruler since 1921, is the longest-reigning monarch in the world.

On one level the Swazi seem able to assert their determination to continue doing things in a uniquely Swazi way rather than rush into embracing outside influences.

The King suspended the experiment with Westminster politics in 1973. At present Swaziland is a one-party state. A second post-independence constitution has yet to be promulgated. Elections are to be held this year for the first time since the multi-party contest of 1972, but it is assumed that only the names of acceptable candidates will be put forward.

But in spite of such autocratic trappings, Swaziland is

governed by paternalism, not dictatorship.

Swaziland is a reasonably open society as far as developing countries go. But perhaps in discussing aspects of autocracy and democracy the Westerner is using terms familiar to him but alien to the Swazi. As Hilda Kuper says in her anthropological study, *The Swazi: A South African Kingdom*, "The traditional Swazi constitution is complex, and in some respects extremely subtle."

The structure of Swazi kingship is strained despotism. The sense of openness is increased by those features of modern Swaziland far removed from its traditions. Swazi rituals are among the attractions for white tourists who flock there.

But the key to the tourist appeal is that activities prohibited in South Africa are permitted in Swaziland. The most luxurious hotel has a casino attached; sex films which would be banned in South Africa are openly screened in cinemas, and white men are allowed to sleep with black girls. Black prostitutes are said to come to Swaziland from South Africa.

On a more wholesome level, the strict inter-racial social mixing which is still far from easy in South Africa because of the whole complex of legal and customary inhibitions is possible in Swaziland.

As Swaziland is part of the Rand Monetary Area, visitors do not even have to change money. South African rand is the local currency, the illegal (plural) analogue which is pegged to the rand, is used interchangeably.

South African can almost persuade himself that he has not really left home except for the illicit pastimes which suddenly become allowed.

Patrons of hotels and restaurants are predominantly white, and those who wait on them black. But although a similar economic imbalance between races exists in South Africa, the legal barriers of apartheid are absent. The Swazi are strikingly more assertive in dealing with

whites than their counterparts in the Transvaal and Natal, which almost surround Swaziland.

The way a Swazi talks to a white underlines that the black is in his own country and not at the bottom of a racially divided heap. This is even a land where a few white South Africans seek sanctuary because they have broken their own laws by marrying someone of a different colour, or because they want to avoid military service.

Black refugees from South Africa fall into different categories. Some families have been in Swaziland since the 1960s. Between 100 and 150 of the 400 refugees registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are student exiles from Soweto, after the troubles there in 1976. Some who arrived in Swaziland from Soweto went on to Mozambique and Tanzania. It is thought that some of them received guerrilla training. Others went on to study abroad.

Fewer than 30 of the registered refugees are from Mozambique and fewer than 20 from Uganda. Some of the Africans seeking asylum in Swaziland are immediately allowed to stay with relatives and friends. Others are held in prison, sometimes for months, while their cases are examined.

More than 2,000 members of a clan straddling the south-eastern border are estimated to have crossed into Swaziland after a dispute over the appointment of a chief.

Another category, who have been described, probably misleadingly, as refugees, are ethnic Swazis from South Africa who come to Swaziland to go to school. There has been some controversy over the way non-Swazi are taken up places needed for local pupils.

Education has proved to be the most explosive issue in Swaziland since independence. Police used tear gas to disperse students during several days of rioting last October. They were demonstrating in support of their

teachers, who were on strike in protest against the non-implementation of recommended pay awards.

Fences have been mended with the Frelimo Government since Mozambique's independence three years ago. But in spite of disclaimers of concern when asked questions about Mozambique, the authorities are worried. A conservative monarchy with a much bigger Marxist neighbour is probably justified in such preoccupations.

Mozambique is not, however, a constraint on Swaziland's room to manoeuvre. Its even bigger, and much more powerful neighbour, South Africa, is.

In spite of its attacks on apartheid and its endorsement of the Organisation of African Unity resolutions against the republic, Swaziland can do little which runs counter to the interests of Pretoria.

One leading government source in Mbabane argues that all the other OAU member states recognized that they could not realistically expect Swaziland to do more for the cause of black liberation in southern Africa. If it came to the crunch, South Africa could cut off its vital food supplies and the Swazi people would starve.

South Africa was Swaziland's "God-given neighbour". The Swazi authorities have cracked down on the illegal possession of arms by South African blacks and detained members of the Pan-African Congress.

Recently the most disturbing incident for the Swazi authorities in their close, but unofficial, relationship with South Africa has been the death of a Swazi education official in police custody in the Orange Free State at the end of June.

Mr Samuel Shabangu was arrested at a border crossing for having failed to appear in court in Pekaia, in the Orange Free State, on a drink-driving charge. On his arrest, he was taken more than 400 miles to Pekaia, where he died six days later.

After a post-mortem examination at Bloemfontein, it was stated that death was due to pneumonia.

A United Nations pathologist who examined the body later said that vital internal organs were missing. The Swazi authorities accused the South African of gross neglect and called for an independent inquest.

In spite of some diversification, the South African dominance in investment and communications remains a daily fact of life. Try to reach an important person who is away from his office and he is likely to be in Johannesburg, the nearest business centre and site of the international airport which is Swaziland's main link with the outside world.

Although Swaziland's dependence on the Reef is much less than Lesotho's, in 1976 one Swazi in 25 of the population worked in the South African goldmines. The Swazi do not like South Africa's political and social system, but they do not in-

dulge in the hypocrisy of some other black states which have economic ties with the republic but pretend they do not exist.

Swaziland does not have diplomatic relations with Pretoria. But as all that needs to be done to talk to anyone in South Africa is to pick up a telephone, such formal links are not strictly necessary. Some of Mbabane's other connections with the outside world are unusual.

Israel, shunned by almost all the OAU, has a mission, as does Taiwan, which is running several agricultural projects. Taiwan's embassy is next door to that of the United States. Presumably if Washington eventually accedes to Peking's pressure to break with Taipei, the Americans and the heirs of Chiang Kai-shek will be able to keep in touch through this pleasant small town in Africa.

## Extended detention curbs dissent

by Michael Newlands

Police armed with rifles stood by as bulldozers demolished the homes of more than a hundred families, people who had nowhere else to stay because of inadequate housing facilities and exorbitant rents, in an independent African country.

The scene was not the infamous Crossroads in South Africa's Western Cape, but Masebeni in Matsapa, Swaziland.

The tiny African kingdom, ruled one of the few remaining monarchs in the world with absolute power, has begun to emulate the methods of big brother and protector, South Africa, when dealing with those who do not conform to the rigid government policy.

A 60-day detention order, which can be, and frequently is, extended indefinitely, is employed to silence the growing forces of dissent.

Musa Shongwe, a prominent Swazi lawyer, is incarcerated in Matsapa prison after he had the temerity to point out in a court case, in which three youths of the South African Pan African Congress were charged with the illegal possession of arms of war in Swaziland, that the kingdom is a signatory to the OAU charter, and that organization recognizes the right of transit of armed guerrillas en route to the "racist regimes" of southern Africa.

Unprecedented pamphlet is circulated

Dr Ambrose Zwane, leader of the now defunct Ngwane National Liberatory Congress, recently escaped from detention and fled to Mozambique.

Soon after Dr Zwane's escape an unprecedented pamphlet was scattered around the industrial areas of Swaziland, signed by an organization calling itself Swakimo, that urged people to stay away from the tenth anniversary celebrations "because our country is not yet free and independent".

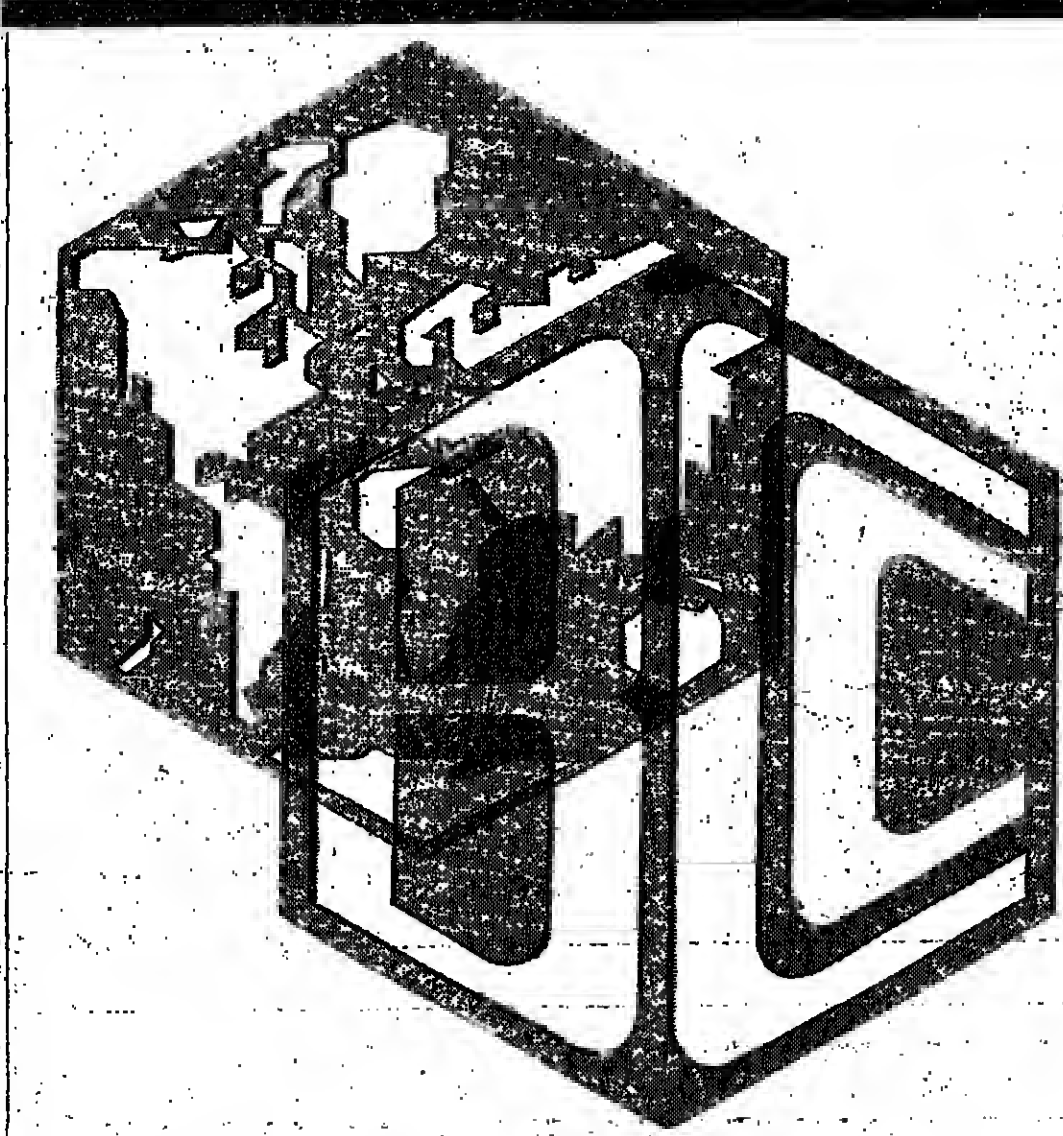
According to senior police sources, the initials stand for the Swaziland Liberation Movement, which is the heir to the Ngwane Liberatory Congress. Dr Zwane and his fellow opposition members in Parliament, before King Sobhuza suspended the constitution, often spoke of the necessity of using violence to achieve political goals if peaceful methods failed.

The police sources say that they have evidence to show that several hundred, perhaps even more, young Swazi have undergone military training in Tanzania and the Soviet Union, and that they have known of the existence of Swakimo for some time now.

The pamphlet began by saying: *Swakimo ahlalile* (We lead, follow us), and continued: "Swakimo says to Maphetu (Major-General Maphetu is the Prime Minister and head of the Armed Forces) and his gang of murderers, rapists and bootleggers: 'Your time has come, the day of reckoning is here.' In an obvious reference to Dr Zwane, the pamphlet said: 'We have rescued our leader and we now demand the immediate release of all other political prisoners in Swaziland.'"

The pamphlet claimed that Swakimo had the support of the whole African continent and that it wanted a people's government in Swaziland.

The mass media did not



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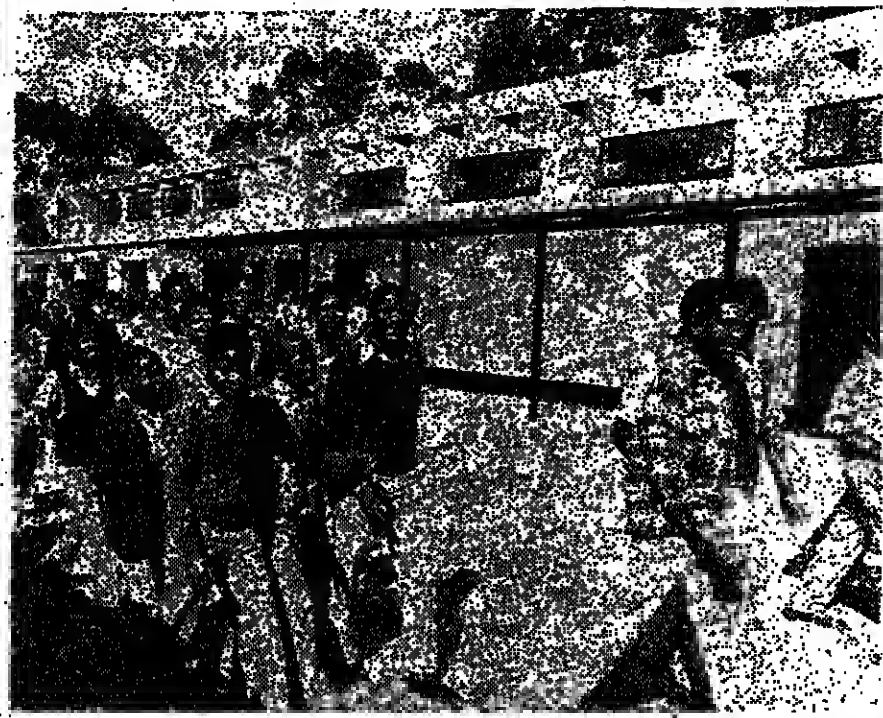


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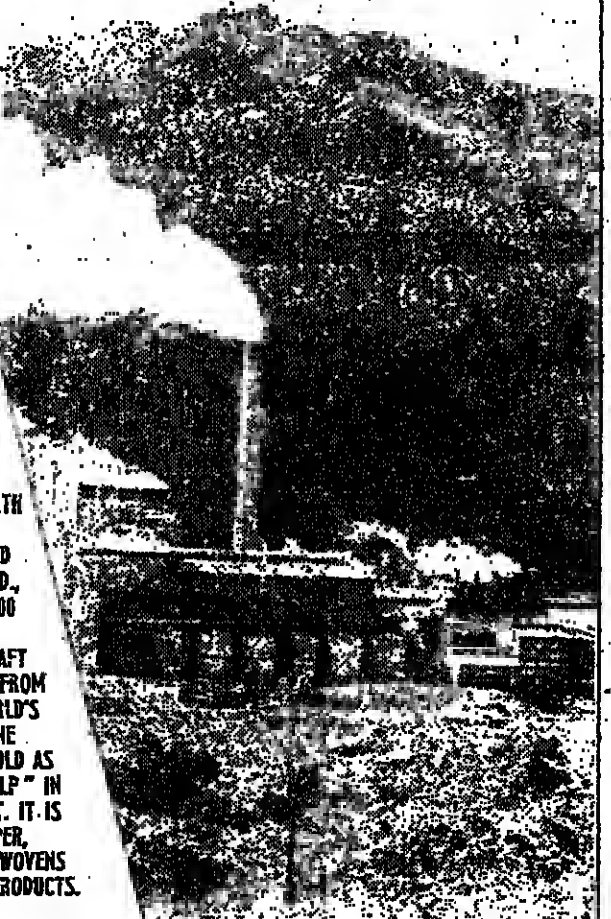
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by Denis Taylor

Swaziland wants political stability to ensure economic stability so as to encourage foreign investment. So far the strategy has worked well, with a pattern of balance of payments surpluses and inflation held to levels well below those experienced in most developing countries during the past five years.

Reserves have risen steadily since independence. These dropped from E101.3m (about £54m) to E84.9m between April and June, but rose again in July and August.

The Swazi economy cannot be looked at as a single unit because of its close interdependence with South Africa. The two countries, with Lesotho, form the Rand Monetary Area.

To opt out of the rand area would be to risk frightening away South African money. One well-placed source in Mbabane estimated the South African equity stake in the country at between 60 and 70 per cent of the total.

Efforts are being made to get finance from other sources. For the third sugar mill, these include Tate and Lyle, which will manage the plant, Nigeria, the European Investment Bank, the European Development Fund, the Commonwealth Development Corporation and Coca-Cola.

But the South African financial co-operation will remain dominant. Swaziland, therefore, will continue to tailor its financial policies accordingly.

South African interest rates are carefully watched. As the Monetary Authority of Swaziland said in a previous annual report: "The overriding objective remains to discourage significant outflows of private sector funds to South Africa, whether through deposit drains or by direct loans to businesses and others in the republic, as a result of interest rate differentials. A primary aim is to maintain rates at levels conducive to encouraging the growth of savings and investment within the Swazi economy."

Along with South Africa, Botswana and Lesotho, Swaziland belongs to the Southern African Customs Union.

A revision of the agreement on shared revenues starting in the 1977-78 financial year raised Swaziland's share of revenue from the customs union almost three times to E39.9m. This was nearly half the Government revenue.

The customs union makes Swazi imports more difficult

to quantify than exports. For 1977 imports are estimated at about E200m. This figure does not allow for customs union receipts.

The trend is one of rising imports, which include machinery, transport equipment and food, with a slight decline in exports. But the growth of imports, which has been a feature of every year since independence as the economy developed, was markedly smaller in 1977. Much of the imported machinery is paid for by long-term loans.

Swazi imports of consumer and other goods from South Africa are no such a scale that rates of inflation mirror those over the border.

Two retail price indices are used in Swaziland. The A index monitors increases in the cost of living for middle and high income groups. In Mbabane, the capital, the B scale is applied to low wage earners in Mbabane and the other main centres, Manzini, and is weighted for food prices. In the last financial year while the A list kept pace with price increases in South Africa, the cost of living for lower income groups rose more sharply. The B rate was 12.3 per cent compared with 8.1 per cent for the A group in the 12 months to March, 1978.

High retail margins and shortcomings in distribution are among the causes pinpointed to explain the B rate, which had slowed from a peak of 21 per cent in June, 1977.

At any one time it is estimated that 15,000 men are working in the South African gold mines, compared with 100,000 from Lesotho. Swaziland's exports show a much wider spread than its imports, three quarters going outside the Rand Monetary Area. Out of the total of E156.3m exports recorded for 1977, E51.9m came from sugar sales and E30.1m from woodpulp. Britain took 36 per cent (110,486 tonnes). The rest went to the United States and Canada.

Japan bought 18 per cent of Swazi woodpulp products (E5,300,000) as well as practically all the E9,300,000 from ore sales. South Korea, with purchases of E4,600,000, was the second customer for pulp. Other markets included Thailand and Taiwan, Nigeria, Zambia and Singapore were among outlets for asbestos. But Britain imported E5,900,000, 40 per cent of the total.

## Economic strategy aids investment



Swaziland exports woodpulp to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian markets, but Britain is its best customer.

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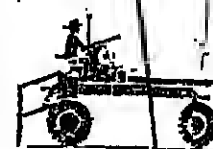
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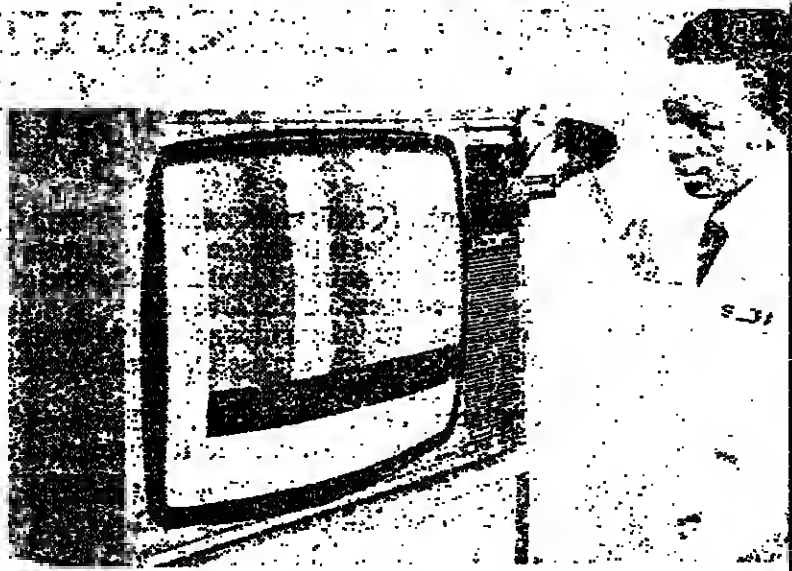
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## Extended detention curbs dissent

continued from previous page

land defence force which was non-existent until immediately before the King suspended the constitution in 1973. Now numbering more than 5,000 regulars and several thousand weekend soldiers (out of a total population of only 550,000) the army is rapidly becoming a law unto itself.

There are weekly reports of people being stopped and beaten up by soldiers and the public are terrified of them. In most cases the police are powerless to act as Swaziland is under a state of emergency and has been for the past five years. On one occasion a policeman went to an army barracks to arrest a soldier and found himself being beaten up by the officers.

After a report in *The Times* of Swaziland concerning the assault by soldiers on a Swazi truck driver, Major-General Magweni made a monumental blunder when he made a broadcast to the radio telling people that they should not go crying to the media when they had been beaten up by soldiers but should rather report to the army.

It is generally believed that the army has been created with General

Magweni at its head because he is a staunch royalist and traditionalist, and in this way it will be assured that when the King dies the royal succession will progress smoothly. Whether Magweni will be able to contain the young, ambitious and undisciplined officers in his command when this happens is open to doubt.

Dr Zwane and his guerrillas may unwittingly prove to be the factor that keeps the monarchy in the dust, so much in power as an armed threat to the nation is the one thing that is certain of keeping unity in the ranks in the face of the socialist threat.

Another force to be reckoned with, and one that is far better disciplined than the army, is the Police Mobile Unit, a paramilitary force numbering several thousand disciplined and highly-trained men who have no great love for the army.

The more educated urban youth, especially the university students, are becoming increasingly radical and disgruntled with the system, particularly the fawning attitude towards South Africa and the hamstringing of the liberation movements, and they too will have a part to play in the inevitable restructuring of the country's social order.

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## Mines are closed but reserves still help exports

by Arnold

Swazi industrial and mining sector, power, supply and construction contributed 25.9 per cent to gdp last year.

mining covers iron ore, coal and coal as well as two smaller possibilities and some substantial deposits. The reserves are being developed as the basis of various industries.

top grade iron ore has been mined. The deposits were discovered in 1964 with 10 contracts to supply these companies. The important and long-term result is the 219-kilometre railway (which the ore has paid for) will continue to play a part in the country's economic development after the ore is finished.

though mining has been about 10 million tons that will

be exported until the middle of 1979. There will remain about 700,000 tons of fines which will also be exported if the Anglo-American Corporation can find a market.

There remains a large quantity of third grade iron ore that could be mined. A feasibility study has been carried out to see whether a pelletisation plant is practicable. If it is, Kenya is interested in buying the ore. The European Development Fund is examining the feasibility study with a Swaziland-Kenya partnership in mind.

Asbestos stands in third place as a Swaziland export. The reserves are high and the world markets for asbestos are good. The business could easily be expanded and the possibility of moving into the second stage of processing is being examined. Exports are worth between £5m and £8m a year.

Swaziland has substantial coal reserves. The one col-

liery in operation produces about 150,000 tons a year. Most of this is for internal use on the railway but there are some exports to Mozambique and Kenya. More important for the future are prospects for another mine that would produce two million tons a year. The question is to find an export market.

Iron ore reserves of coal are estimated at 1,000 million tons, of which more than 200 million tons have been confirmed. The coal is of average quality but could certainly compete with that of South Africa. It is slightly better quality than that of the republic although somewhat more difficult to mine since the seams are thinner and more complicated.

Other minerals are of minor importance. There are substantial deposits of kaolin which are to be developed for a variety of local industries such as ceramics by the National Industrial Development Corporation of Swaziland (NIDCS).

There is also a small tin

mine about to be opened up. On present estimates, of about 1,500 tons' reserves it will probably be in production for only two or three years. The mining sector employs about 3,000 people and contributes 4.2 per cent of gdp.

The manufacturing sector's two greatest contributors are wood and sugar. The country has four sawmills which produce sawn and planed timber, black board, round wood, pit props as well as telegraph and transmission poles. The largest of the country's mills at Bhunya, built to exploit the Umtata forest, has the capacity to handle 150,000 tonnes of timbered logs annually.

There are two sugar mills (each with a capacity to refine 150,000 tons) and last year they produced about 240,000 tons of sugar, mainly for export. A third mill with a capacity of about 100,000 tons is being constructed and should go into production in 1980.

Thirdly, another offshoot of agricultural activity, there is the thriving canning business run by Libby's—part of Nestlé—concerned principally with the canning of pineapples but also with canned orange and grapefruit juices.

The remainder of the manufacturing sector consists of food and beverage processing, a small chemical industry producing fertilizer for Swazi consumption with an output worth about £8m a year, and other small-scale industries. Industrial goods and detergents are produced and there is paper processing and structural engineering.

The NIDCS is the main arm of government designed to encourage new industrial developments. There is also the Swaziland Enterprises Development Corporation (SEDCO) that assists only "all-Swazi" business ventures.

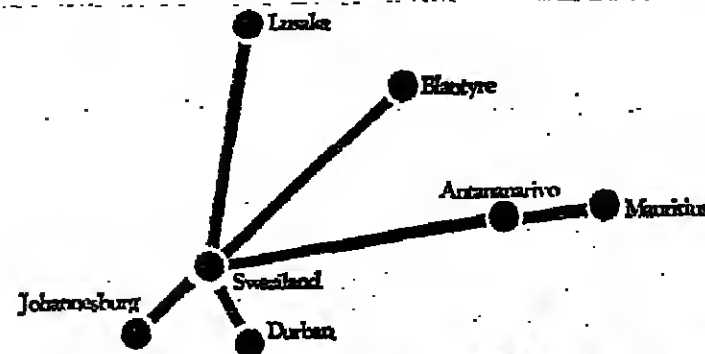
Like many of its counterparts elsewhere in Africa, NIDCS will go into partnership with foreign firms once these have been accepted as reasonable partners for Swazi development. It is making a number of project identifications and feasibility studies. Once it has established a possible industrial development it searches for a foreign partner. Only 5 per cent of its projects are with Swazi businesses.

Most of the companies that have gone into partnership with NIDCS are South African based European companies, but there are six projects with Asian partners, one from Japan, two from Hong Kong and three from Taiwan. The 30 NIDCS projects cover commercial activities, an animal feed plant, the by-products of the sugar industry, service activities and construction.

Criteria for an outside partner are technical knowledge, ability to manage the project and, perhaps most important, access to and knowledge of export markets. NIDCS is not interested in companies that want only management contracts; foreign partners must also take an equity in the enterprise.

Swaziland's economy is remarkably varied. It is dominated by three or four activities—sugar, fruit, canning, asbestos, with each perhaps about to replace iron ore in importance. It also has a growing number of small-scale, yet important and profitable, manufacturing activities all of which will help to make the country somewhat less dependent on its giant neighbour, South Africa.

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	Royal Swazi 20002	Dupe Matapha	14:30	Arr. Mauritius	15:30
TUE	Royal Swazi 20001	Dupe Matapha	12:30	Arr. Johannesburg	13:30
	Royal Swazi 20002	Dupe Matapha	15:50	Arr. Lusaka	16:25
WED	Royal Swazi 20005	Dupe Matapha	09:00	Arr. Matapha	11:30
	Royal Swazi 20010	Dupe Matapha	16:00	Arr. Blantyre	18:00
THUR	Royal Swazi 20001	Dupe Matapha	08:30	Arr. Johannesburg	11:30
	Royal Swazi 20002	Dupe Matapha	12:30	Arr. Johannesburg	13:30
SAT	Royal Swazi 20007	Dupe Matapha	18:00	Arr. Antananarivo	20:15
	Royal Swazi 20008	Dupe Matapha	21:00	Arr. Mauritius	23:45
SUN	Royal Swazi 20009	Dupe Matapha	05:00	Arr. Antananarivo	08:40
	Royal Swazi 20010	Dupe Matapha	09:00	Arr. Mauritius	11:40

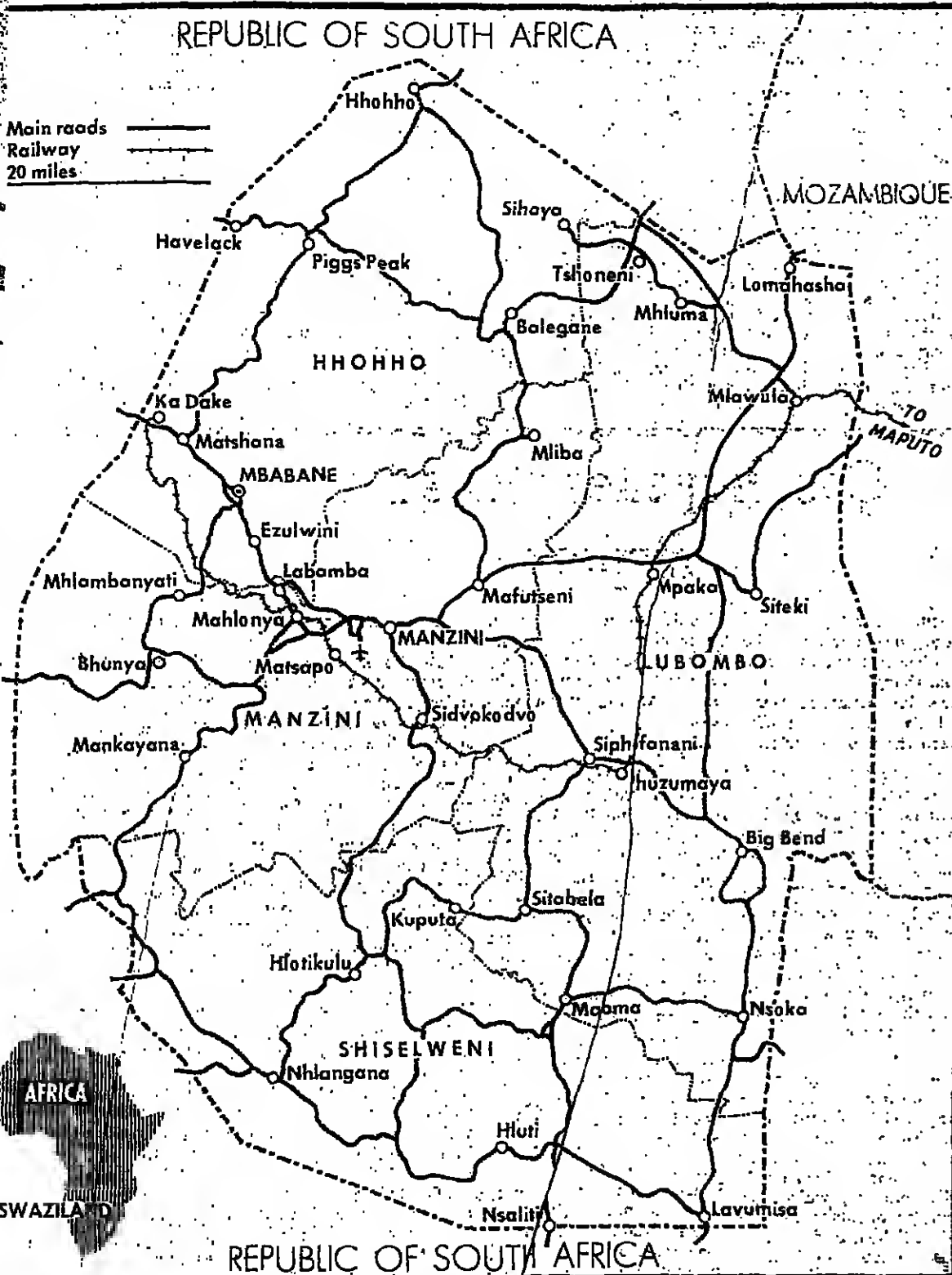
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## Cashing in on the Nation Land

Swaziland's agriculture is divided into two distinct parts. The first is the land of the King, who owns the land on behalf of the nation. This land can be allocated by chiefs for use of individual Swazis and is known as Nation Land. The rest of the agriculture

produced in this sector consists of subsistence crops and the main ones are maize, groundnuts, cowpeas, beans, sorghum, tobacco and sugar. Some of these are cash crops, the sugar cane for example, being sold to the sugar mills.

The rest of the rural land accounted for 14.6 per cent of exports. Roughly 30 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture and there is unlikely to be any significant change in this ratio for the foreseeable future. Considerable emphasis is therefore placed on training the country's young agricultural college which takes students to diploma level and five farmer training centres. In addition a good deal of research is carried out, for example on techniques of pineapple production, and is made available freely to all farmers.

Swaziland is striving to become self-sufficient in maize, the staple food, though at present some maize still has to be imported to meet requirements. The forests, planted in the 1950s, are now maturing so that the wood business has grown to take third place in the country's exports.

Sugar, however, is the key to Swaziland's prosperity and sugar is subject to world factors beyond Swaziland's control. In 1977-78 Swaziland produced a total of about 225,000 tons of sugar, almost all for export. Of this amount 120,000 tons went to the EEC under the sugar protocol which will expire in 1980.

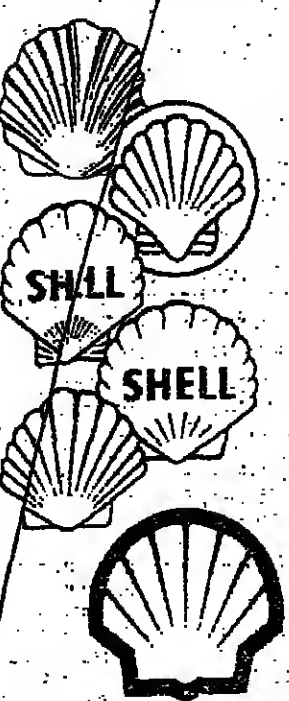
Second, and more precarious for the future (depending on the present squabble between the Carter Administration and the United States sugar interests), America commits itself to take a certain proportion of its sugar needs from developing countries without imposing tariffs on them. Last year this came to 30,000 tons and Canada confirmed on next page.

Orchard crops such as avocados, bananas, peaches, mangoes and guavas are also produced. There is a small but important livestock sector. Swaziland has a thriving meat canning business as well as selling meat as far afield as Kenya, Nigeria and Zambia. Some of the cattle is sold on the hoof to South Africa.

Agricultural raw materials for processing fall into four main categories: sugar for the refined sugar and molasses; cotton for spinning to produce cotton cloth; meat for processing into canned meat, offal, as well as chilled deboned and fresh carcasses; and the wood pulp and processing business which last year

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## Traditional ceremony unifies a people

by a Special Correspondent

Since the tiny garden kingdom of Swaziland regained its independence from Britain 10 years ago this week, the Swazi people, their traditions and cultures have remained largely unchanged. And this is in spite of being at the centre of a potential political cauldron with Marxist Mozambique to the east and the minority white apartheid regime of South Africa to the north.

At the head of the nation is the Ngunwenama (Lion) of Swaziland, the world's longest reigning monarch, King Sobhuza II. He rules by decree over a population of about half a million Swazis of various ethnic groups, black, white and those of mixed racial origin.

But this oasis of little racial prejudice in a surrounding sea of entrenched black-white discrimination is largely due to the benevolent rule of the old king.

Yet the Swazi people have managed to retain their ethnic identity and carry out their traditional ceremonies much as they did since Sobhuza was installed as King of Swaziland in 1921.

That they have done so is all the more surprising after the near occupation of the country by mainly British and South African speculators, farmers and missionaries from the mid-nineteenth century.

The main traditional ceremony on the Swazi calendar is the *Incwala*, which means the Feast of the First Fruits.

The ceremony, described by Professor Bida Kuper, describes it as "a dramatic ritualization of Swazi kingship in all its complexity—economic, military, ritual".

This ceremony, and the

traditional prestige enjoyed by the King is the cohesive force in unifying the nation. The *Incwala* is a ritual ceremony where the King is purified according to sacred rites in preparation to lead the nation through the new year.

It is one of the few periods in the life of the Swazi nation where foreigners are barred from participation and much of the ceremony is secret even to the majority of the Swazi people. It lasts for about three weeks and during that period traditional dances are held throughout the length and breadth of the nation.

But Sobhuza has long seen the virtue of blending the old and the new, taking the best from both the Swazi and Western cultures. Through a fund called the Tlhiyo Taka Ngwane Fund he has managed to reclaim much of the country's land from foreign title-holders.

This land he now holds in trust for the Swazi people after a long and bitter struggle to regain it. His philosophy of "not banging tables" but "rather discussing matters quietly, steadily in good, even in his quest to reclaim his people's land."

Using traditional Swazi subtlety and indirect use of customs he was able eventually to make sure that the land he belonged to his rightful owners—the Swazis.

Another major cultural difference between the Swazis, the Zulu and the Basotho, for example, is that the King rules side by side with the Queen Mother—the *Indlovukazi* (She Elephant). They both play a key role in national activities and divide authority equally.

The Swazi culture is polygamous in theory but in practice only the wealthy



King Sobhuza, the world's longest-reigning monarch (second from right) among leading military men at a state display.

take advantage of this custom. Sobhuza has at least 50 wives and numerous offspring who are all accorded royal rank and privilege.

Each year at the annual reed dance where nubile Swazi maidens dance for the king, he is able to choose a new wife. But in recent years the elderly king has not exercised this right.

When he scrapped the Westminster-style constitution in April, 1973, Sobhuza promised a new popular style of government. The realization of this promise can be expected within the next few months. He is to establish a type of tribal council elected from a short list of names submitted by the people in the different chiefdoms. This council will be known as the *Tlhiyandla*.

If the 78-year-old king lives to see the introduction and establishment of rule by traditional authority then it will at least have a chance of working. But the question of who will succeed the king is not easily answered. It is a closely guarded secret and only a few of the king's closest advisers know who he is.

The succession to the kingship does not automatically fall to the eldest son but instead the prince is chosen on merit.

Whoever takes over from Sobhuza will find it no easy task. Although the king has the active support of traditional Swazis in the rural areas many young Swazis who migrated to the main towns of Mbabane and Maseru are disenchanted with the present system of government.

These young people not lost their tribal identity but they have been educated in the western way and many of them hold university degrees and professional qualifications.

While there is no organized dissent within the country, political parties banned in 1973—there have been signs of unrest as dissatisfaction.

Many of those in positions of authority staunch traditionalists are related to the family. The young people are keen to see a democratically elected government but whether they will be allowed to do so is not clear.

## Cost impedes plans for airport

by Guy Arnold

Landlocked and tiny, Swaziland depends overwhelmingly upon its single-track railway to Maputo for bulk exports and a viable proportion of its imports, as well as upon road communications into the Republic of South Africa which carry the balance of imports and exports and are of particular importance to its tourist industry. It also depends upon air-transport through Johannesburg, although there is a once-weekly flight from Maputo to Maseru and back while Royal Swazi Airlines is beginning to operate other connections to Zambia and Malawi.

Finally, there is the 20-kilometre overhead cableway that transports the asbestos from remote Havelock Mine in the north of the country to Barberton in the Transvaal for further transshipment.

Jan Smuts airport, Johannesburg, is the nearest international airport to Swaziland and dependence upon travel through the republic has been a factor in keeping Swaziland remote from the main stream of African politics. DETA Airways flying

between Maseru and Maputo once a week is the only other international connection, though since Mozambique's independence there has been little air traffic between the two countries.

There are plans to build an international airport in Swaziland. The concept has been approved by the Council of Ministers and the Japanese are doing a feasibility study, but the drawback is the question of costs. The original estimate was for £40m. and though this has been reduced to £30m it is likely to return to at least the first figure by the time the project is carried out.

There are three main road approaches to Swaziland: from Johannesburg, from Durban and from Maputo as well as a number of lesser ones. Swaziland's tourist industry, which has a number of plans for expansion, is held back at least in part because of lack of good roads for visitors; 90 per cent of whom arrive by car from South Africa. Statistics for 1975 showed that there were a total of 2,630km of roads of which 1,480 were main roads, 1,170 were district roads, and in

all only 96km were tarred. Government is tarring further stretches of road particularly to open up certain districts for the tourist business.

The railway is by far the most important of the country's forms of transport. It was originally built to transport the iron ore from Ngenya to Maputo and came into operation in 1964. There are 20.4 km of single track inside Swaziland and a further 74 km from the border down to Maputo. Now that the iron ore is running out, the country finds that it has an invaluable transport asset that has been paid for and there is considerable confidence that he iron ore freight will largely be replaced by other export commodities.

At present 85 per cent of Swaziland's exports go out by rail to Maputo while a substantial though smaller proportion of imports comes in that way, the balance coming by road from South Africa. Even after the present stocks of iron ore have all been moved—perhaps by the end of next year—it is still envisaged that at least 75 per cent of the country's exports will continue to use the railway.

There are, however, two developments concerning the railway. The Government took a political decision after independence in Mozambique that it ought to have an alternative route for exports to ease for any reason the rail link to Maputo were to be closed. The result is the building of a new rail link from the existing line at Phuzumoya in the centre of the country due south to cross the Swazi border into Natal and link into the South African Railways system at Golela.

This section of line is due to open on November 1. It is likely to be used mainly for petrol, oil and lubricants traffic from South Africa while fertilizers will go out by it. The link may also take wood pulp (at present 220,000 tons go out annually to Maputo) and citrus fruit. The cost of this link is £27m and the money has been raised inside Swaziland.

The second link, which is still under consideration, would branch north from the existing line near Mpaka in end of next year—it is still envisaged that at least 75 per cent of the country's exports will continue to use the railway.

project requires South Africa also to construct a link bringing South African Railways to the Swazi border.

The justification for the link would be that Swazi African miners from Palabora mining region could be freighted through Swaziland to port at Richards Bay, saving the long detour to take round Swaziland. Swaziland would benefit from development because South African freight would then have to travel approximately 191km Swaziland and the tariff such a haul might cost something in the region of £4m a year. Whether eventually goes ahead or must depend upon a mix of political considerations southern Africa over next few years.

Swaziland's telephone telecommunications services are tiny. There is now equipment in the price exchanges and direct circuit link Swaziland to Johannesburg and overseas have to be routed through Johannesburg as do communications. At the of 1975 Swaziland had 10 telephones.

## Cashing in on the Nation Land

continued from previous page

took a further 20,000 tons from Swaziland. Of 223,000 tons produced 220,000 went overseas.

There are, however, complications on the horizon. The world sugar outlook is gloomy and prices are expected to be low next year. Europe is producing a surplus of sugar beet—three million tons this year—and since the EEC has not joined the International Sugar Agreement any surplus it has will depress world prices.

France opposed EEC accession to the International Sugar Agreement. The EEC may join one day but its individual governments are more likely to pay attention to the political pressures from their own producers than adopt a policy favourable to countries such as Swaziland. The long-term future of the sugar protocol with the EEC must at least be uncertain.

The United States did not join the International Sugar Agreement either and should in fact be winning their battle with the Carter Administration for protectionist measures this will have adverse effects upon Swaziland's marketing prospects.

For the coming year, for example, Swaziland has contracted to supply between 60,000 and 70,000 tons of sugar to the United States. The basis of security for the industry lies in its special arrangement under

Lomé with the EEC. Swaziland became a member of the International Sugar Agreement at the beginning of this year and the agreement guarantees its members a quota of the world sugar market: for Swaziland this is in addition to its EEC arrangements and for the coming year the quota stands at 80,000 tons.

Both of Swaziland's main sugar mills had embarked on expansion programmes before the International Sugar Agreement came into being and it was written into the agreement that a country's quota would be increased in relation to any expansion that had been planned and set in motion before accession to the agreement, so Swaziland is covered in that respect.

None the less, the key to sugar remains the protocol with the EEC which guarantees the industry a certain stability.

Sugar is the largest employer of labour in Swaziland with between 9,000 and 10,000 workers and when their dependants are added it probably means that the industry provides the livelihood for about 50,000 people or 10 per cent of the population. Out of total Swazi exports in 1977-78 sugar accounted for 35.2 per cent and molasses for 1.2 per cent.

Swaziland has embarked on the construction of a third sugar mill that is to have a capacity of about 100,000 tons and that is evidence of her faith in the long-term future of sugar.

G.A.

## Swaziland puts out to sea



The Royal Swazi Maritime Company Ltd. known as "Swazimar" have inaugurated its service with the "MV Swazi Maiden". This liner vessel of 17,127 tons will carry for Bulk parcels as well as Break Bulk general cargo, Containerised cargo, Refrigerated cargo and Bulk Liquids.

The "Swazi Maiden" will make her second voyage from the North West Coast to South Africa during September 1978, loading at London approximately 4th - 8th September 1978.

The voyage schedule is as follows:-

Hamburg	28/8 - 30/8	Mombasa	1/10 - 5/10
Rotterdam	31/8 - 31/8	Maputo	14/10 - 19/10
Antwerp	1/9 - 3/9	Durban	20/10 - 25/10
London	4/9 - 8/9	Cape Town	30/10 - 31/10
Barcelona	13/9 - 14/9	Liverpool	18/11 - 19/11
Marseilles	15/9 - 15/9	Hamburg	21/11
Leghorn	16/9 - 18/9		

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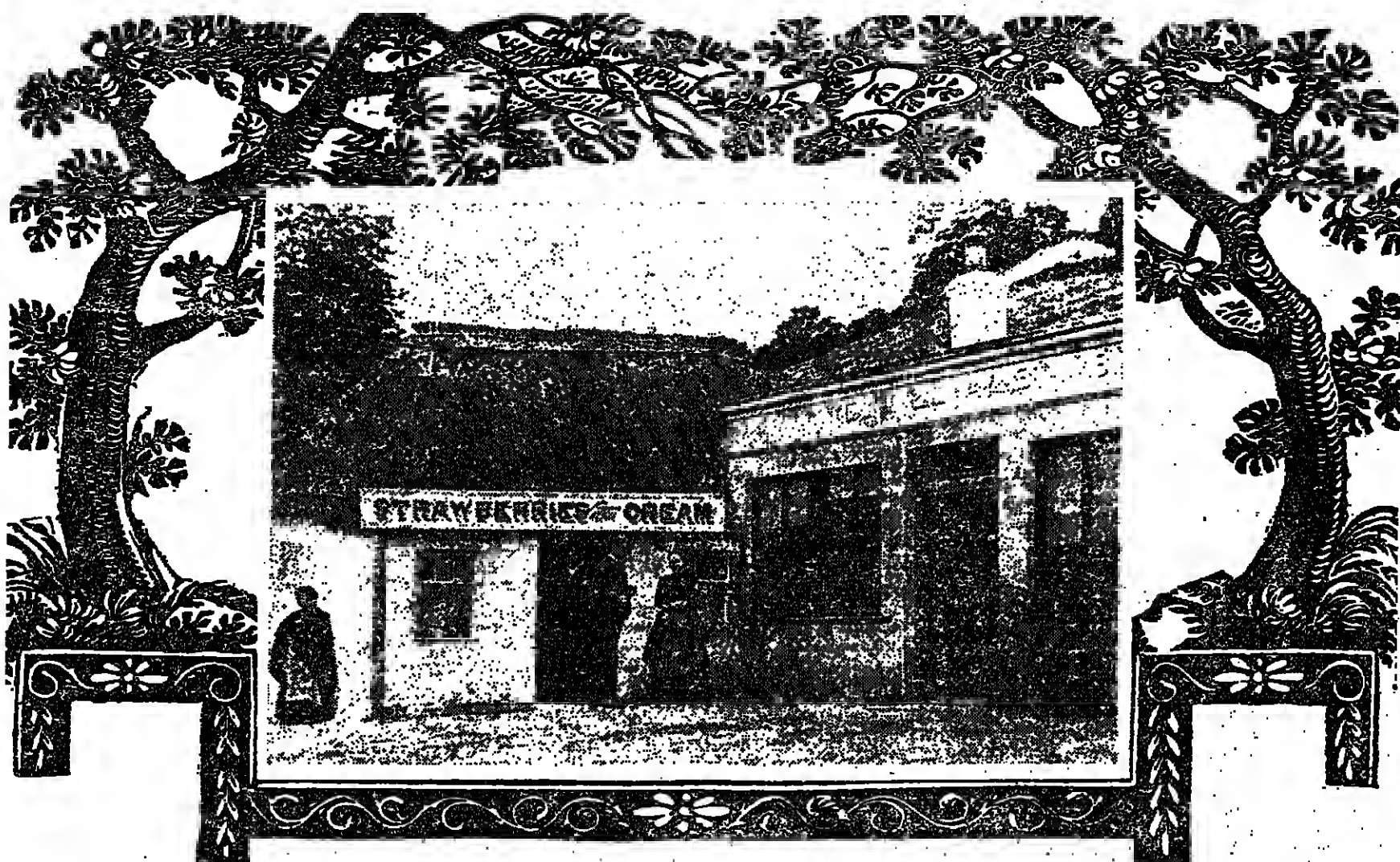








# THE TIMES GUEST COOK



## SIMPLY IRISH

Traditional tastes of Ireland by Theodora FitzGibbon

Fresh, wholesome and succulent food has been a tradition in Ireland for centuries, and happily this tradition still continues. The grazing is lush and extensive and the pollution level of its rivers, lakes and air is the lowest in Europe. The heather-covered hills of Kerry and Wicklow are the home of sturdy sheep who nibble at the young shoots, giving

the meat a fine flavour. Hardly anywhere in Ireland is more than a few miles from a river or the sea and therefore from good fish. A sixth century analyst wrote of Ireland: "Fruitful were its river mouths... sweet and abundant the butter from its churns." It is basically a simple cuisine using the fresh foods of the country:

it has hardly changed since an anonymous poet wrote *The Hermit's Song* in the ninth century, when the hermit wished for: "... I will choose and will not hide it; Fragrant leek, Hens, salmon, trout and hees." Honey was not only used for sweet dishes but also with fish, meats

and in drink. Salmon was cooked on a spit after being rubbed with salt, then basted with butter and honey, and the famous Limerick hams were cured with honey and smoked over oak shavings, and the juniper berries which grew freely in the country. In the ninth century tale *The Feast of Bricriu* the hero sings the praises of "... five score cakes of wheat, cooked in honey withal."

and crush into small pieces. Add the cream to the soup; heat but do not reboil and serve with the bacon and chopped parsley or chives as a garnish. Serves six.

Additional garnishes are chopped Dublin Bay prawns; small dice of chicken, tongue or ham.

### Herrings potted in Guinness

Mackerel are also very good done this way.

4 filleted, fresh herrings or mackerel; 1 pint Guinness, draught for preference; 1 pint white malt vinegar; pinch of salt and sugar; 1 medium onion sliced two rings; 1 bay leaf; 4 cloves; 6 each, white and black peppercorns. Roll up the filleted fish from the tail end and put side by side, edges downward, into a fireproof dish. Slice the onion rings over and add the herbs and spices. Mix the Guinness and vinegar together and pour over, then cover and cook in a slow oven, 300°F, 150°C, gas mark 2, for about 45 minutes. Leave to cool then refrigerate if desired, and serve with a little of the juice. If left for 48 hours the liquid will be jellied. Serves two or four.

### Salmon steaks with hazelnut butter

Ireland is famous for her salmon, both fresh and smoked. A remarkable spectacle of Galway Town is to see the salmon, packed like sardines, lying in the shallow water under the bridge during the season. Salmon features in myth and legend, notably Finn MacCool, the salmon which had eaten the hazelnut from the Tree of Knowledge thus gave knowledge to the first person who tasted the fish when cooked, who was Finn MacCool. This recipe links the past with the present.

4 salmon steaks or a rail-end; 2 tablespoons butter; pepper and salt; 100g ground and crushed hazelnuts; a little lemon juice; 1 lemon.

Line the grilling pan with foil and rub it with butter quite thickly, then put under a hot grill for about one minute or until the butter is melted (but not browned) and the foil is hot. Then remove and rub the salmon steaks on both sides in the butter. Season a little and grill for about 7-10 minutes turning, but basting from time to time with the butter until they are just slightly golden brown on top. The fish is ready when it has shrunk away from the bone slightly. Meanwhile, or even earlier, melt the remaining butter with the ground hazelnuts and a little lemon juice and shape into pats, then chill and serve one on top of each salmon steak with a wedge of lemon. Serves four. Sea or salmon trout can be served the same way, and if under 2lb in weight it can be grilled whole, then skinned before serving with the hazelnut butter.

### Cured salmon or salmon trout

This is like the Scandinavian Gravlax and quite delicious. Cut the salmon down the middle so that you have two flat fillets. Take off the head, tail and the backbone. Put the halves, skin side down, on a big dish and rub all over with a level tablespoon salt and leave in a cool place for 24 hours. The next day pat the excess moisture off and rub well all over with olive oil. Continue this process, ie, salt and oil, for the next two days, then use the olive oil and about 2 tablespoons brown sugar and a very little Irish whiskey. Leave overnight again, then shake it dry and hang in a current of air to dry off a little. Then it is ready to slice thinly like smoked salmon and serve with brown bread. It will keep for about 3-4 days in the refrigerator. For a 4lb salmon, the quantities are approximately: 2 tablespoons salt; 11 tablespoons brown sugar; 11 pints olive oil; 1 tablespoon Irish whiskey.

### Irish stew

This is known all over the western world and is usually made very badly. It should be thick and creamy, not swimming in juice, and the addition of carrots, turnips or even pearl barley is not traditional and spoils the pure flavour. Originally it was made with kid or mutton, for no farmer would be so foolish as to use his lambs for it.

3lb best end of neck chops, trimmed of fat and bone; 2lb potatoes, sliced; 1lb onions, sliced; 1 tablespoon, chopped parsley and 1 pte mixed; approx. 1 pint water or stock; salt and pepper.

To make the best Irish stew, first debone the meat and put the bones on, covered with water and a little salt and pepper, in a pot gently for about half an hour. Then strain and chill so that any fat can be removed from the top. Cut the meat into fairly large pieces, peel and slice the potatoes and onions. Put a layer of potatoes in a pot, then herbs, then meat and finally onion, seasoning each layer well. Repeat this once more, finishing with a thick layer of potatoes. Pour the liquid over, cover with greased foil, then a lid and either bake in a slow oven 250°F, 130°C, gas mark 2, or simmer gently on top of the stove, shaking from time to

time to avoid sticking, for about two hours. Add a very little more liquid if it seems to be running dry. Serves about four.

### Dublin coddle

A favourite of Dean Swift's, this is made the same way as Irish stew except that lean rashers of bacon and sausages are used, the meats being first boiled for about five minutes before cooking. It is served with soda bread and glasses of Guinness.

### Beef braised with Guinness

Originally porter was used for this stew, but it is difficult to get now.

2lb boned stewing steak; 1 large onion; 1lb carrots; 3 bay leaves; 2 tablespoons flour; 2 tablespoons oil; 1 tablespoon chopped parsley; 1 pint Guinness and 1 pint water; salt and pepper; optional garnish: 16 soaked, stoned prunes stuffed with hazelnuts.

Trim the meat and cut into convenient serving pieces, but do not make them too small. Heat the oil and put in the bay leaves and let them crackle a little, then add the meat and quickly fry it on both sides. Then put into a casserole and remove the bay leaves, but add the sliced onion and let it soften, but not colour. Sprinkle the flour over and let it brown, then add the Guinness and water. Let it bubble up and thicken and add the meat and season to taste. Put into the casserole with the sliced carrots and parsley, put the lid on and braise in a slow moderate oven 275 F-300 F 140 C-150 C gas mark 1-2 for about two hours. Stir it once during cooking and add a little more liquid if necessary.

In the nineteenth century the stuffed prunes were added about half an hour before the meat was ready and they do make a very good garnish. Serves four.

### Colcannon

This Colcannon is traditional of Halloween or All Hallows' Day, October 31, and a ring is often put in at that time, the person who gets it being the first to get married. Correctly it is made with kale, but cabbage is often used.

1 lb each kale or cabbage and potatoes, cooked separately; 2 small leeks or green onion tops; 1 cup milk or single cream; approx 4 oz butter; salt, pepper and a pinch mace or nutmeg.

Strip the kale or cabbage from the stalks and chop finely, then cook, drain and sieve or liquidize. Cook and mash the potatoes, chop the leeks or onions and cook them in the milk until they are soft. Season all the vegetables, combine the potatoes and kale, then add the leeks and milk and beat to a purée. Do this over a low flame until it is a green fluff. Put into a warmed dish and make a well in the centre then pour in the butter, melted. The idea is to eat the dry vegetables with the melted butter. Serves about six. It is very good with any of the pork family.

Any leftovers can be fried up and served with sausages or bacon rashers. It should be fried on both sides until golden brown, and crisp on the outside.

### Champ

This Champ is also traditional, particularly in the northern counties. It is the same idea but the cabbage or kale is omitted. Instead of leeks, chopped parsley, chives, young nettle tops and peas can be added to the potato.

### Potato cakes

"... While I live I shall not forget her potato cakes. They came in hot, and hot from the pot oven, they were speckled with caraway seeds, they swam in soft butter, and we ate them shamelessly and greedily, and washed them down with hot whiskey and water." The Holy Island. Experiences of an Irish R.M. E. O. Somerville and M. Ross.

2 cups self raising flour; 2 heaped tablespoons butter or bacon fat; 11 cups mashed potato, freshly made; 1 cup milk; 2 teaspoons caraway seeds (optional); salt.

Mix the butter with the flour and add a good pinch of salt. Then mix in the cooled mashed potato and pour in enough milk to make a soft, but not slack dough. Roll out onto a floured board and cut into rounds about 3in across. Sprinkle a few seeds of caraway on top of each cake and bake on a greased baking sheet in a hot oven 400°F 200°C gas 6 for about 20-30 minutes. Eat them hot, split across and spread with butter. This dough can also be used to line a savoury flan. Makes about nine cakes.

### Soda bread

Perhaps the most traditional food in Ireland today and still baked daily in countless houses and hotels. The brown "cake" is the most popular.

12oz stoneground wholemeal flour; 8oz plain white flour; 1 teaspoon each: salt and sugar; 2 level teaspoons each: bicarbonate of soda and Bextar; 1 egg; approximately 1 pint sour milk, buttermilk or 1 pint plain yogurt and 1 pint water.

Mix all dry ingredients

together, then add the beaten egg, and finally enough sou milk or alternative, to make soft but not too slack dough. Turn out on to a lightly floured board or table and knead for a few minutes until it is smooth. Divide into two parts and shape into a flat round, then cut quite deeply (about 1 inch) into the top to make a cross. This is to allow the rising agent to work. Or put the mixture into greased loaf tin if preferred. Bake for 40-60 minutes in oven preheated at 375°F, 190°C, gas mark 5. To test, insert a thin skewer into the centre before removing from the oven. Wrap in a tea-towel while warm to keep the crust soft. Leave for about 44 hours to ensure easier cutting. Originally it was baked in a large black pot, known as a Bastable oven, over glowing turf sods, with hot ones put on top of the pot to give even heat. Because of this, in parts of West Cork and Limerick it is called a Bastable cake.

### Barm brack

This is also traditional at Halloween (with a ring inserted as in Colcannon) but used as a tea-bread throughout the year. Sometimes it is made with yeast, but the following makes three good loaves (for tin size 8in x 4in x 3in). This is my grandmother's recipe, and her whiskey brack were popular.

1lb suet; 1lb brown sugar; 1lb raisins; 3 cups milk-less tea or 1 tea and 1 Irish whiskey. Soak the fruit and sugar in the tea overnight. The next day add alternately: 1lb plain flour and 3 beaten eggs.

Finally, add three level teaspoons baking powder and, if a spiced brack is liked, then add three teaspoons mixed spices. Turn into three greased loaf tins (size 8in x 4in x 3in) and bake for 1 1/2 hours at 325°F, 170°C, gas mark 3. When cool brush with melted honey in glaze.

### Honey mousse

Ireland is famous for the excellence of its honey, noted since ancient times.

1lb honey; 4 separated eggs. Separate the whites from the yolks of the eggs, then mix the yolks with the warmed, liquid honey. Cook over a low heat (or in a double boiler), stirring all the time until the mixture thickens like a custard. Remove from the heat and let it cool. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold into the mixture. Pour into individual dishes and serve cold. Serves four.

### Irish Mist soufflé

This is made with Irish Mist, a liquor made with herbs, honey and whiskey.

6 eggs; 6oz castor sugar; 1 pint strong black coffee; 2 tablespoons powdered gelatine; 3 tablespoons Irish Mist liqueur; 1 pint double cream.

Separate the whites from the yolks and put the sugar into a bowl with the egg yolks and beat together. Dissolve the gelatine in the hot coffee, add to the yolks and beat well over a saucepan of boiling water until the mixture thickens slightly. Then put in the liquor and beat until thick. Take from the heat, cool and stir over ice until it is on the point of setting, then add the whipped cream. Finally stir in the stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour into a soufflé dish which has a paper collar 3in high tied around it. Chill until cold and remove collar before serving. Garnish with whipped cream before serving. Serves six.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## An improving trend in money supply

gilt edged market has been waiting for not in the arm for some time now and yesterday it was given at least a mild dose of encouragement in the form of the August sterling figures. The message from the very fall—3.6 per cent in eligible liabilities—6.3 per cent in interest bearing eligible liabilities—may not be particularly precise, but it does imply that the money supply, in the form of sterling M3, should have fallen, by as much as 1 per cent, over the period. In that case, the annualized rate of growth in sterling M3 over the first four months of the financial year would be well below the bottom end of this year's 8-12 per cent growth target.

But, in conjunction with the indication in the clearing banks that the underlying rate of expansion in loan demand may be slowing, should be modestly bullish for sterling. It still remains difficult to see that the market moving far given the continuing uncertainty and the fact that the authorities are unlikely to want to see any significant lowering of interest rates until they are convinced they have seen the peak in the "corset". The banks look to making unexpectedly comfortable profits in the right direction, thanks largely to the release of special deposits. Official hope now seems to be that the annual recall of the bulk of those deposits in the September and October banking months can be achieved without too much loss of disturbance, but the authorities will be watching the market closely.

### Confident about this year

essey has raised false hopes before, most recently in the second half of last year. For the moment, however, the optimists are in the ascendant. First quarter profits, although down at £12.4m, are better than generally expected in view of disruptions in communications caused by strikes in Australia and Portugal, a £400,000 adverse currency movement and a £1m loss at the end of the year. Despite last year's surgery, it is still no improvement. Moreover, Plessey is showing undisguised confidence about the remainder of the year. With anything up to 40 per cent is still in electronic systems; private telecommunications, flat so far, should now move fast; and public systems and the electronics/aerospace interests will be picked up pace. The order book is up to £731m. Targets of £50m plus for the year against £412m thus look realistic, the prospective p/e ratio of nearly 11 backed by a healthy enough 8.4 per cent dividend.

he longer term question marks for essey remain, however. The telecommunications business still faces further overhaul and the Government involvement in microprocessors suggests that the matter of industry reorganization may not yet be dead.

### Capital goods slowdown

judge by how tightly held the shares and the negligible level of trading they see, investors are not paying any attention at all to the profits performance of cca. Which is just as well as the latest 1 year profits, showing a 23 per cent up to £15.9m pre-tax after only a marginal half-time decline of £300,000, are the lowest total for five years. Consumer products, which account for more than two-fifths of sales, are still the saviour. Although the second half has topped the first-half loss to leave profits up from £3m to £501,000. Colour television is the main drag with losses now approaching £1m and, despite a couple of art successes, records too have turned lower results. The difference this time that capital goods are no longer carrying cca to the extent they have in the past. It rises have been difficult to get rough and the survey side has moved into red by around £200,000.

For the current year Decca itself is not expecting much recovery, although some improvement is possible in colour television and a turnaround in survey could lift profits back to around £15m. The real ace up Decca's sleeves, though, is the size of the order book for navigation and electronic warfare equipment, which could start to percolate through to profits this year but more probably not until the 1980s.

### Bicc Demand remains sluggish

BICC's 17.4 per cent interim profits rise to £28m is due to first-time contributions from new acquisitions in the industrial products division and a particularly strong performance from the Balfour Beatty construction business.

Elsewhere, though, progress has been pedestrian; BICC is clearly still awaiting a significant recovery in world trading conditions to provide the desired impetus for its important cable and wire operations. The repayment of something over £3m to the Post Office in respect of the price-ripping claims has cut operating profits from BICC cables by more than a fifth to £6.5m, but allowing for the fact that previous figures were depressed by closure costs progress on this front has been negligible in real terms.

Meanwhile the international division's profit operating contribution is only fractionally ahead at £13.9m reflecting particularly tough market conditions in Canada and parts of Europe, while new acquisitions including Coben and Dorman Smith account for the lion's share of the 90 per cent improvement to just over £5m in industrial products.

However, with profits now pouring through from the huge Dubai port contract, Balfour's contribution has jumped 70 per cent to £5.9m. With new orders holding up well this division should continue to provide solid support until activity recovers in other areas.

BICC's promise of similar progress in the second-half helped the shares up 3p to 131p in a buoyant market. But expectations of a 5.7m profit this year against £4.8m put a p/e ratio of around 9. It seems a little on the high side despite the attractions offered by a yield of just under 9 per cent. The shares, then, are unlikely to make headway against the market until stronger signs of a world trading recovery emerge.

### Zip profits collapse

IMI, like BICC, is operating against an uninspiring demand background and profits were never really expected to do much more than mark time this year. That assumed no accidents however: and IMI's interim profits are down by 12.2 per cent at £15.7m having been knocked off course by a serious setback in the zip fastener business. This has never been an easy area due to Japanese competition which despite representations to the EEC remains a real problem. But it has become even more difficult due to fashion changes and more significantly the shift in garment manufacturing from Europe to the Far East.

IMI will have to sweat this one out and it is already clear that despite rationalisation of its zip business to deal with the changed demand picture and barring any sudden upturn in demand from the general engineering and metalworking sectors that the zip situation will cast a cloud over this year's results. The shares at 63p, yielding around 8 per cent remain closely geared to the engineering and building cycles. IMI's building materials business is going well but there must be doubts about whether it can get the sort of results it wants from its engineering businesses to make good the shortfall on zips.

### Brussels

While most West Europeans have been trying to make the best of one of the worst summers in memory, two groups of experts have virtually completed the technical work needed to create the planned European monetary system.

Throughout August top officials of the European central banks and, despite of the EEC monetary committee have been investigating ways of bringing about the greater monetary cooperation which EEC leaders at their summit conference in Bremen at the beginning of July agreed was "highly desirable".

Today and tomorrow the options will be discussed in Brussels by the members of the EEC monetary committee in what one participant described this week as a "third reading" of the various ways to introduce the "EMS".

The implication was that the EEC financial ministers, when they meet in Brussels on September 18, will be in a position to make the political decisions necessary to establish the system according to schedule at the beginning of next year. However, it is a matter of much doubt whether the ministers will be willing to do so.

The Bremen proposals were summed up in an annex to the communiqué issued after the two-day summit meeting of EEC leaders in the city on July 6 and 7. The annex was tantalizingly vague on several key issues and it is these that have been the subject of much expert deliberation throughout August.

Agreement has not been reached at the expert level, but the practical aspects of the various alternatives have been worked through with a finetooth comb so that in theory in EEC ministers have only to make the political decisions to launch the European monetary system.

The Bremen annex envisaged the establishment of a system of exchange rate management in Europe that is at least as strict as the existing European currency unit (the ECU), would be "at the centre of the system" and, said, in a footnote, that the currency would have

## Obstacles in the path of the new European monetary system

The monetary issue appears to stand at the threshold of political decision. The EEC monetary committee will this week sift the reactions of the nine European capitals to the work of the two expert groups before drawing up the alternatives for the finance ministers

the "same definition as the European unit of account". The annex suggested that ECUs would be used to support the system and implied that they would have a hybrid character. An initial supply would be created against the deposits of a certain percentage of central bank gold and dollar reserves (the annex spoke of 20 per cent and this figure has been adopted without amendment by the experts) and used as a means of settlement between EEC monetary authorities.

An equal sum, created against member currencies, would be used for short and medium-term currency credits between central banks. The entire concept is designed to create an area of monetary stability in Europe better able to cope with exchange rate disruptions caused by such events as the recent sudden weakening of the dollar.

The dollar problem was hinted at in the third paragraph of the Bremen annex which spoke of the need for countries participating in the scheme to coordinate their exchange rate policies vis-à-vis third currencies.

The essential aspects of the Bremen annex were agreed by all nine EEC leaders after an informal dinner at the end of the first day of the summit.

Afterwards Mr James Callaghan had second thoughts and insisted that there should be "concurrent studies" on the reallocation of resources between "rich" and "poor" members of the EEC, in which he clearly thought Britain would count among the poorer brethren of the community.

It was only when the nine national delegations returned home after the meeting that serious doubts arose on the terms agreed. A significant difference emerged over the character of the ECU: the so-called "snake" members, led by Germany, favour a currency rate system in which the European currency unit would be fixed. This so-called grid parity system would differ little in practical terms from the present system of central rates fixed in the joint European float.

The non-snake countries, championed by France and Britain, have taken their cue from the footnote in the Bremen annex and argued for a weighted basket of currencies that would presumably fluctuate in value depending on the strength and weakness of its various constituents.

It is argued that this system would help weaker currencies

to stay in the EMS in times of monetary turbulence, although it would be far more difficult to operate. Both sides agree that currency relationships should be adjustable if a given rate proves untenable.

Another problem area has been the nature of the support fund of ECUs that would back the system. It was generally thought at the beginning that this implied a pooling of reserves to create a European monetary fund—a solution that has obvious attractions for the weaker European currencies that would presumably become the prime beneficiaries of such a system.

But over the summer the Germans, who have the largest reserves, have been reluctant to contribute most to such a fund, appear to have been tracked, speaking instead of drawing rights upon the pool of ECUs created from reserves, without necessarily creating a fund under independent management.

It is principally in these two areas that the experts have been working and have devised their alternatives. The important question of coordinating exchange rate policies against third countries appears to have been relatively neglected, probably because

this summer's dollar weakness was generally diagnosed as a problem to be solved in Washington.

The issue of concurrent studies has hardly got off the ground, partly because the leaders assembled in Bremen gave a much vaguer mandate on this issue and partly because the EEC economic policy committee, which is entrusted with the study, did not meet during the traditional continental August summer break.

The monetary issue, therefore, appears to stand at the threshold of political decision. The monetary committee will this week sift the reactions of the nine European capitals to the work of the two expert groups before finally drawing up the alternatives for the finance ministers' meeting later this month.

But it would be rash to expect the finance ministers to decide on a final blueprint for the European monetary system. The lack of progress over concurrent studies is one obvious stumbling block. Another, his obstacle to decision is uncertainty as to the date and outcome of the British general election.

Observers in Brussels, therefore, feel that decisions will be our until the next EEC summit in Brussels at the beginning of December.

For enthusiastic supporters of greater European monetary cooperation the dangers of such a delay are clear. The impetus gained from the rapid advances made at the technical level over the summer could easily be lost as experts are sent back to work over the finer points of questions awaiting a political decision.

Meanwhile, monetary cooperation could become bogged down in the enormous complexities implicit in the concurrent studies on the reallocation of resources in the European Community.

The EEC Commission claims that the one virtue of greater monetary cooperation is that it is a project that promises to remove a significant restraint to economic growth in the member states of the Community while not upsetting organized pressure groups. The same cannot be said of plans to reform the common agricultural policy.

## Closing the gap between politicians and business

The object was to do something about the businessman's ignorance of the working of Parliament and the problems of political decision-making in relation to business affairs

The Confederation of British Industry recently pronounced on the desirability of businessmen going into politics, the implication being that politics is too important to be left to the politicians.

A group of business executives from Chloride also recently attended a "teach in" at the House of Commons organized by two MPs—Robin Corbett, Labour member for Bromsgrove and Redditch, and Hal Miller, Conservative member for Bromsgrove and Redditch. The object, according to Chloride, was to do something about the businessman's ignorance of the workings of Parliament and the problems of political decision-making in relation to business affairs.

As one MP said recently: "If we MPs are ignorant about business, businessmen are surprisingly ignorant about the business of government." The MPs and the company involved in the "teach in" are members of the Industry and Parliament Trust, which was formed last year to bridge the gap that exists in Britain between politicians and businessmen.

Member companies of the trust—15 at present, including British Rail, British Telecom and British Airways—will expose them to 25 days a year in business and industry

with their company on the shop floor, in the boardroom and in the market place. MPs are invited to join the trust voluntarily. Member companies pay an annual subscription of £5,000. Associate members, of which there is only one at present—pay only £500.

According to Alan Ebbens, Green, the trust's general secretary, companies who share the disquiet about MPs being out of touch with the realities of business and industry are keen to use education in the interests of both sides and of

the nation at large. He says: "We turned down the idea of a vigorous industrial lobby on grounds that we wanted to be an educational unit rather than a pressure group."

When the trust appoints MPs, it does so without reference to its sponsoring members, who do not know therefore which MPs they are going to have assigned to them. This is a necessary precaution, which removes any temptation among businessmen to connive and attempt to influence MPs. It also makes it much easier for MPs to shed their inhibitions.

When the trust got underway, it did so with the agreement of each of the party whips, except for the Scottish Nationalists, whom it forgot—which was, as Alan Ebbens-Green explains, "careless and caused us a lot of trouble."

When the MPs and companies learn who they are paired with, they can veto the choice. This has already happened, in a case where a company had problems bordering on an MP's "territory" which were embarrassing to both him and the company.

On another occasion an MP would not take part because the company to which he had been assigned was strong in his constituency. Other MPs, however, do not mind that, especially as it is a strict rule of the trust that members' companies must not use MPs to lobby on their behalf.

Companies belonging to the trust include Cadbury Schweppes, Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, British American Tobacco Company, United Biscuits, Laporte, Metal Box, Tar-



Mr Hal Miller (left) and Mr Robin Corbett, two MPs who recently organized a House of Commons "teach-in" for businessmen.

mac, Plessey and the British Oxygen Company, whose idea it originally was.

MPs belonging include Janet Footes, the only woman Conservative for Plymouth Drake, who spent a day serving behind the counter of her local Marks & Spencer store; Bryan Davies, Labour MP for Enfield North, and Dr Gerard Vaughan, Conservative MP for Reading South, both of whom went down a coal mine with themselves as "crackers" to see how work is done underground; and Hugh Rossi, Conservative MP for Hornsey, who spent a day out on a British Oxygen Company delivery van, handling gas cylinders to startled customers.

The object of all this is to increase MPs' understanding of business and industry by giving them first-hand knowledge of what is going on "in the real world", far removed from Westminster. To this end, a real-world business situation was artificially created recently in the form of a management game at the Tower Hotel, in

London, where MPs attended a day-long seminar, at which they played roles in the reorganization of a hypothetical company called Crackers Ltd, engaged in the manufacture and marketing of potato crisps, cheese biscuits and "snack meals".

The company was riddled with problems and MPs tried their hands at finding solutions. There will be those, of course, who think that MPs themselves are "crackers" to become so closely involved with business and industry in this way, running the risk of "contamination"—and devoting so much of their time to such pursuits.

On the other hand, for those MPs who can find the time, there can be no doubt that there is something—perhaps much—to be learnt about the increasingly complicated and inescapable worlds of business and industry, about which they are so often required to make value judgments in the political arena.

Bob Crew

## Business Diary: Healey meets the Sweeney

Reading my way through the 100,000 press releases issued at the Queen's Jubilee meeting at the Queen's Hotel to hear Denis Healey's jubilee address yesterday, I thought how appropriate it was that the only function to which I have been charged entrance should be one involving the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Barry Whitby, the GMWU official who was in the chair, loudly said the same idea. Introducing Healey, Whitby said the fact that it cost to hear the Chancellor yesterday further down the road the congress hall, said more on the finances of the Fabian Society than it did of the Labour Party.

to the Tory party leader during the Penistone by-election and added in a suitably Maltese cross during an economic address. "If I had proposed to Edna in those terms I'd never have got married and the population of this country would have been smaller by three."

Healey carried off the meeting with superb aplomb (as did his leader later yesterday) but, quite apart from the Right to Work demonstrations inside and outside the hotel, it was by no means a cosy affair.

"What about the managers?" is how I can best paraphrase a question about the restoration of incentives and differentials put to the Chancellor by Denis Healey, the national offices of John Lyons's Engineers' and Managers' Association. Healey used Sweeney's question to fuel his attack on the Tories' free market policies. He would, he said, not be rude to managers, as had Jim Prior in saying that managers were mostly to blame for poor industrial performance. The Chancellor then added: "... although there may be a lot of truth in what he [Prior] said"—which sounded rude enough to me.



"This southern ale tastes off to you only because you know that the brewery is supporting the Tory election fund."

Healey has an odd, but not doubt entirely innocent, habit of sticking two fingers up to the air to make a point. British industrial performance, he told Sweeney, had been inferior to that of her competitors for a century. The worst period of all had been the decade before the First World War when, as Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph would like now, there was next to no income tax or welfare state. I asked a grim-faced Sweeney whether he had liked Healey's answer. No, he said. Managers had had a tough time under the last three pay phases and, come election time, they might well wonder whether they would do better under a freer system.

While most of the celebrities of British trade unionism were cringing the light fantastic at an ASTMS reception on Monday night, Arthur Scargill was

coarsely and wittily talking power politics along the seafront at the Royal Pavilion. Scargill, president of the Yorkshire area of the NUM, was wearing not his miner's helmet but his hat as chairman of Energy 2000. This is the coordinating body of the various anti-nuclear power lobbies—the brown bread and sandals brigade, as he said they are sometimes called.

Talking to a Socialist Environment and Resources Association meeting, he illustrated his attack on the dangers of nuclear power and the secrecy of the nuclear establishment with a story I rather liked. Scargill told how he once debated with a physicist the proposition that nuclear power was inherently dangerous. The physicist, Scargill said, produced a piece of plutonium, ran a Geiger counter over it and received no reaction from the machine. He then, Scargill went

on, doctored ostentatiously a pair of gloves and produced a piece of coal. The physicist then ran the Geiger counter over the coal and the contraption started to crackle. All rocks emit slight radiation, apparently. How, asked the physicist, can you argue that this dirty and difficult to handle fuel is preferable to nuclear power? Ah, Scargill said, recalling an old remedy for heartburn from his 20 years' underground, I'll eat that piece of coal if you'll eat that piece of plutonium. Apparently the physicist did not pick up the gauntlet—or the plutonium, either.

One might expect a miners' leader to prefer coal to plutonium, of course. Scargill, however, told the meeting that such was his fear of nuclear power and its dangers that if the price of ending this country's nuclear programme were to be the closure of every pit in Britain then he would be willing to pay it.

## G. R. FRANCIS GROUP LIMITED

Satisfactory results in a difficult year

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		
Year ended 31st March	1978	1977
Sales	£4,856,810	£4,224,677
Net profit before tax	£228,773	£241,136
Proposed dividend per share	3.950p	3.537p

Review by the Chairman Mr. G. R. Francis

- Although trading conditions generally continue to be difficult, I am pleased to be able to report another satisfactory year for the Group.
- Turnover for the year to 31st March, 1978, was 15% higher than that for the previous year and, whilst margins continue to remain under pressure, this has in fact been achieved to an extent sufficient to retain a very acceptable return on capital employed. The net profit for the year of £228,773 reflects a second half profit of £130,264, an improvement of 32% compared to the first half.
- We are continuing to expand our product range, and are encouraged by the results which have assisted in maintaining our share of a depressed market.
- In the circumstances your Directors have no hesitation in proposing that the dividend be again increased by the maximum amount permitted to 3.950p per share.
- We have given consideration to the Stock Exchange recommendation concerning inflation accounting but have decided that, with the continuing uncertainties, it is not appropriate to present the inflation adjusted statement this year; we shall however continue to carefully monitor, and assess, the situation.



Heating and Plumbing Merchants—BIRMINGHAM

Ross Davies



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Equities' best day for 10 months

Better than expected banking figures and good trading news from BICC and Plessey cleared the air on the stock market yesterday and gave shares their best day for 10 months.

The FT Ordinary share index leapt almost 12 points at one stage, though a little profit taking at these higher levels took the index off the top by the close. However, the index held most of the rally, to end 10.1 up at 503.5 in light trading.

Over the previous five trading sessions, the index had fallen some 20 points, though the FNCE 1992/97 loan stock held steady at 331 yesterday following its run of the past few sessions. There is some thought that the price could fall sharply towards the end of the account as, in the absence of any time for payment, new speculators rush to cover the large bull positions which have been built up.

There had been few sellers on the way down and, as jobbers marked stocks better before the official opening, the market were already queuing up with orders.

Nonetheless, some feel that there will be a reaction to the sharp rally today in front of half time figures from market leaders ICI and BP tomorrow.

Electron uncertainties continue to upset sentiment though October 5 seems to be gathering market support as the most likely date and the general feeling is that the job is unlikely to break out of the 480-520 trading range.

British Funds had a slightly busier session with some strong buying at the shorter end following news of a more than 3 per cent drop in banking figures.

The initial three eights rise was held during after-hours trading, though shorts continue to be depressed by the rising American interest rates.

Longer-dated gilts did little throughout the session though by the close most had drifted around a quarter better.

Among the index stocks only GKN was left behind. Some heavyweights, however, were thought to be coming from the Midlands, has been initiating the selling of the past two sessions and yesterday the shares shed 6p to 274p.

Elsewhere, heavyweights BCC and the way up with

a rise of 9p to 712p while ICI at 401p, Glaxo at 612p and Unilever at 572p all added 7p. A 5p gain took Bisons to 380p while Courtaulds firmed 3p to 116p. Pilkingtons, which went ex-script on Monday, firmed 10p to 315p.

Reed, a volatile market of late, climbed 8p to 337p while Bowater, reporting next week, added 3p to 202p.

10 engineers John Brown, which saw a shake out of stock last week, was wanted again, climbing 12p to 468p while Tubes added 6p to 400p.

Electricals were a buoyant sector with BICC proving to be the high flyer. Against market estimates of pre-tax profits within a £24m-£26m range, it turned in some £27.9m which was enough to add 9p to the shares at 131p.

Plessey, also beating market estimates, added 5p to 105p while Decca, in line with other graded forecasts, saw the 'A' shares firm 5p to 455p. GEC climbed 9p to 311p, Thorn firmed 6p to 380p and Kacal went 10p higher to 330p.

Other groups to benefit from trading news include IMI 2 1/2p higher at 63p, and Horizon Midland 3p firmer at 108p, while gains of a few pence left Zetters at 55p, James Beattie at 124p and Myson at 73p.

By contrast, Reardon Smith 'A' shed 2p to 31p depressing P & O did a penny to 84p in front of figures today.

A favourably revised retail sales index and a confident Henley forecast on consumer spending for next year, helped stocks go better. GUS 'A' at 312p, Burton 'A' at 179p and Bourne & Hollingsworth at 287p all improved 10p while British Home Stores climbed 6p to 204p and Marks & Spencer added 4p to 87p.

A strong Wall Street and some buying in front of second quarter figures saw BP shoot 18p higher to 894p while Shell climbed 13p to 575p and TFC at 172p, Oil Exploration at 202p and Ultramar at 240p all gained 6p.

In plantations, Guthrie added 7p to 373p. As analysts up-grade estimates in front of imminent figures, whisky group Arthur Bell are surging ahead, gaining 10p to 272p yesterday.

Stocks of the year for December profits could rise from £1.3m to £1.7m. Interim figures are due soon, but the second half-year is expected to show a greater push than the first half.

The shares in engineer Fabrilin Lonsdale rose 3p to 73p yesterday, but the yield is still nearly 11 per cent. At the June annual meeting, the chairman reported a recovery in business, and the firm for the year to December profits could rise from £1.3m to £1.7m. Interim figures are due soon, but the second half-year is expected to show a greater push than the first half.

Thursday the price was 143p. A few months ago the price added a penny to 83p underpinned by a bid in a major sale.

Equity turnover on September 4 was £51.37m (16,006 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, GEC, Shell, Grand Metropolitan, Barmah, BICC, BP, A. Bell, Burton 'A', Plessey, de Beers, and B.E.T.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int'l or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Apex Prop (F)	0.98(0.81)	0.4(0.32)	5.54(5.87)	2.7(2.28)	18/10	3.9(3.48)
James Beattie (I)	12.9(10.5)	0.98(0.38)	—	—	—	—
Blackwood (I)	147.7(136.4)	8.6(7.6)	4.56(4.19)	0.96(0.8)	15/12	2.26(1.66)
BICC (I)	500.6(512.8)	27.9(23.8)	7.91(6.34)	2.5(2.25)	2/1	—(7.05)
F. Cogson (F)	—	0.165(0.161)	—	0.83(0.74)	—	—
Decca (F)	186.3(181.4)	12.3(15.88)	25.2(35.4)	8.59(7.65)	2/1	11.89(10.65)
Horizon (I)	9.3(5.4)	0.34(0.34)	—	1.62(0.91)	26/10	—(3.16)
IMI (I)	260.4(256.5)	15.7(18.0)	—	1.67(1.5)	27/10	—(3.29)
Edward Le Bas (I)	8.1(8.28)	0.25(0.21)	—	1.01(0.9)	2/10	—(1.8)
Myson (I)	23.8(19.4)	0.72(0.45)	—	1.25(1.0)	25/10	—(1)
Nurdin & Peacock (I)	110.0(97.1)	1.5(1.5)	4.13(3.12)	0.87(0.79)	27/10	—(1.84)
Prox Group (I)	20.17(16.0)	2.45(1.68)	4.94(7.33)	1.18(1.07)	—	—(3.62)
Plessey (I)	151.9(143.4)	12.4(13.3)	3.31(3.37)	1.8(1.61)	25/10	—(4.7)
Prox Financial (I)	95.7(77.9)	4.08(3.08)	—	1.23(1.05)	—	—(1.62)(1.45)
J. Saville (F)	17.6(25.2)	0.75(0.92)	3.3(4.0)	—	—	—
Thesis Hides (F)	371.78(290.9)	19.14(12.62)	—	—	—	—
Trade Indemnity (I)	—	—	—	1.46(1.07)	2/11	—(3.10)
Wm Whittingham (I)	6.4(5.3)	0.036(0.12)	—	0.036(0.12)	—	—
Zetters (F)	8.6(5.4)	1.04(0.59)	7.34(4.18)	1.29(1.16)	26/10	1.29(1.16)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.49. Profits are shown on a gross basis. a=Loes, b=Excludes additional 0.027p, c=Adjusted for scrip, d=Australian dollars, e=Cents share, f=Excludes additional 0.06p.

## Margins suffer at Nurdin &amp; Peacock

By Michael Clark

The continuing high street "price war" has taken its toll of Nurdin & Peacock, the cash-and-carry wholesalers.

Figures for the six months to July 1, show turnover up by 13 per cent to £110m, while pre-tax profits slid slightly from £1.52m to £1.50m.

However, the board is confident that sales for the full year will also be a record, and that profits for the second half of the year will extend those of the comparable period last year. But the increase in profits overall, said the group, was expected to be less than 10 per cent.

An interim dividend of 1.3p gross has been declared, against 1.2p.

The results were much in line with market expectations and as a result the shares remained firm at 84p.

While the group carries out a proportion of its business with stores such as Spar and Vango, most of its business is taken up with the small retailer and catering business.

Nurdin has 25 outlets most of which are based in the South of England and the board maintains that its policy of opening new branches and enlarging or replacing existing branches continues.

The new outlet at Plymouth is well on schedule and it is anticipated that it should open before Christmas.

Trident agrees to revised Starwest terms

Shares of Trident Group Plc rose on the stock market yesterday following the announcement that agreement on a bid had been reached between Starwest Investment Holdings and Trident's independent directors.

Trident's independent directors, led by Mr. Alister Carey, are now urging shareholders to accept the latest bid from Starwest, a private company run by Mr. Remo Dipre, chairman of Trident, of 85p cash for each share.

Starwest had previously offered 80p and 50p for each preference share. This gives Trident an overall value of about £3.8m.

## Horizon Midlands riding on the crest of the wave

By Our Financial Staff

Horizon Midlands, the package tour business which does more than 70 per cent of its business in Spain, like Court Line before it, is riding the crest of a boom. But unlike its luckless forebear, Horizon, is probably heading for its best year yet. It is also about to do so from a position of strength.

In the half-year to May 31, Horizon's turnover rose from £5.4m to £9.3m and turned pre-tax losses of £348,452 into profits of £345,434. The strength of this about-turn took the market value of the shares rose 3p to 108p a new 1977-78 peak.

The market value of the shares is little more than £6m. The last balance sheet showed £3.5m in cash or its equivalent, and since then there has been a "cash for shares" issue. Most of this has still to be spent.

There is nothing in the published statement with which to quibble. The directors say that holidays sold for the present

summer are a record; the group expects to carry around 165,000 passengers at an average load factor of more than 90 per cent; the cost of the French air traffic controllers strikes has so far been only £60,000 for meals and hotels; and confirmed bookings for winter are double the year before.

The group adds that in the next week or so the 1978 summer brochure will be out. It will include 35,000 holidays from Luton airport, for the first time. It is pressing ahead with plans to have its own airline by 1980.

For this year profits should be easily the highest ever, which seems to indicate something between £2m and £2.5m. Meanwhile, the interim dividend rises 7.8 per cent to 2.43p gross as forecast with the issue. For the full year, a rate of payment of 5.6p was indicated.

However, growth will presumably slow down at some stage with the group facing considerable competitive pressure.

## Smooth progress at Blackwood Hodge

By Peter Wainwright

Everything at Blackwood Hodge, the Euclid earthmoving equipment distributor, seems to be going to plan. In July, with a £5.8m right issue Mr. Bill Shapland, chairman and his colleagues forecast pre-tax profits of at least £8.5m; in fact they rose 12.5 per cent to £8.6m. For the full year, the forecast, as before, is for £18m against £16.6m. The shares duly rested at 71p yesterday.

Sales at £147.8m fell 5.5 per cent. The fall in the UK was 2 per cent, but overseas the drop was 8.6 per cent to £102m. The setback abroad is partly attributed to exchange rate movements, but largely to overseas, however.

Operating costs and overheads rose slightly with inflation, but the right issue and lower interest rates brought down borrowings by nearly £1m.

As indicated, the interim 4.5p gross, an increase of a tenth. This final as promised is to be 19.2p, an increase of 19 per cent. Interim earnings a share, fully diluted, advanced from 4.19p to 4.56p.



Mr. William Shapland, chairman of Blackwood Hodge.

The interim statement adds that meetings should soon be held with Nigerian authorities to effect the sale of a further 20 per cent of the equity in the Nigerian subsidiary to local shareholders.

## Offer is likely today for J. Compton

A bid is expected to be announced today by a group Carrington Viyella the much-sought-after unit maker, J. Compton, Sir Webb (Holdings).

The terms are understood to be a share for a share cash alternative which gives Compton an overall offer of £9.87m. Share Compton Webb which were ended last week cut stand at 43p.

Webb's shares were available for comment at Carrington Viyella, Lord Chelwood, a man of Compton Webb, that he was in no position to make any comment at stake.

The bid follows close on heels of a recent offer by Vacona, the household goods group, which broke down week. A statement from Vacona said that it had no possible to reach agreement with the Compton board at the level at which Vacona could be made by Vacona could recommended by Compton.

In a letter to shareholders last week Lord Chelwood said that it was the wish of directors that Compton Webb remained independent.

But he went on to tell holders that the bid from Vacona was much too low, would be of no benefit to shareholders.

L. Scott aims for late rally

A warning of a sharp back in interim figures by Mr. Paul Tapscott, chairman of L. Scott, is likely in his annual statement.

This is mainly the result of further build up of control manufacture during the first months together with the uneven incidence of machine contracts.

The year's target, however, he added, is for this share to be more than recouped during the second half, therefore this year should see some overall progress unless plans go badly wrong.



## Results for half-year to 30th June 1978

based on unaudited figures

	Half-Year to 30th June 1978	Half-Year to 30th June 1977	Year to 31st December 1977
	£m	£m	£m
Group Sales	500.6	512.8	997.8
Operating Profit	32.4	28.5	55.5
Finance Charges	4.4	4.7	8.4
Pre-Tax Profit	28.0	23.8	47.1
Taxation	13.2	11.0	21.0
After-Tax Profit	14.8	12.8	26.1
Minority Interests	3.0	3.5	6.8
Attributable Profit	11.8	9.3	19.3
Earnings per Share	7.91p	6.34p	13.16p
	Interim	Interim	Year
Dividends per Share-Net	2.50p	2.25p	7.05p

**Pre-tax Profit** ■ up 17% due to further improvement in Balfour Beatty contracting activities and the impact of new acquisitions on the results of BICC Industrial Products.

**Earnings per Share** ■ show an improvement of 25% reflecting the continuing rise in the profits of those operations of the Group, the results of which are entirely attributable to BICC shareholders.

**Interim Dividend** ■ increased by 11% to 2.50p net per Share.

**Outlook** ■ present indications are that the level of performance achieved in the first half of 1978 will be maintained during the remainder of the year.

The Interim Dividend of 2.50p net per Share (1977 - 2.25p net per Share) will be paid to Ordinary Shareholders registered in the books of the Company on 10th November, 1978. Variants will be paid on 29th December, 1978, payable 2nd January, 1979.

The complete Interim Group Results, including an analysis of performance by Group Company, will be posted to Share and Loan Stock Holders on 11th September, 1978. Further copies are available from the Secretary, BICC Limited, P.O. Box No. 5, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QN.

**BICC**

## Competition hits Diploma

By Rosemary Unsworth

Electronics distributor and engineer, Diploma Investments' margins have been slashed by fierce competition in the electronics field during the year to June 30, 1978. Volume increased by 250 per cent in the group's electronics division, but group pre-tax profits only went up by 14 per cent to £4.6m, on a turnover increase of 24 per cent to £32m.

Nevertheless, Diploma wants to raise its dividends by 75 per cent to 10p in the current year and is looking at dividend legislation which enables companies to increase dividends by more than 10 per cent providing the cover does not fall below the highest level since 1972. Mr. Christopher Thomas, the chair-

man, said Diploma's reference year would be 1974.

A final dividend of 3.88p gross has been declared for 1978, making a total of 5.7p.

Mr. Thomas said that despite a continuation of depressed market conditions throughout the company's operating sectors, he was looking forward to another sound performance for the current year. He took confidence from the knowledge that the company operates "in areas of long term growth prospects and from encouraging orders, sales and profits obtained in the opening weeks of the new financial year."

Last year Diploma's pre-tax profits increased by nearly 60 per cent to £4m.

## Bid may be on way for Goldrei

Talks are under way between food manufacturers, C.R. Goldrei, Fouchard and an offer being made for the company.

The news was enough to send the shares up 15p to 85p yesterday, giving the group an overall value of about £2m.

Early rumour in the stock market suggested that the mystery bidder may be Fitch Lovell, but this idea was quickly rejected by Mr. Michael Webster, chairman of Fitch Lovell.

Mr. Webster said that while his group had enough spare cash, it was not going to bid for a company he had "never even heard of."

## Lower interest rates aid Provident

Provident Financial, the check-trading group, has continued to benefit from the higher level of business and lower interest rates in the first half of its year to the end of June. On a 23 per cent turnover gain to £95.7m, pre-tax third to £4.1m. Roughly half of this has come from the £546,000 reduction in interest to £2.75m with the remainder the result of the increased level of business.

The group has increased bank borrowings to fund any further upturn in activity which it has already seen starting to come through from the buoyant state of consumer spending. It is, the recent acquisition of Halifax Insurance, which will benefit the second half, underlines the group's desire to diversify its traditional base while there is hope of its planned move into running in-house credit cards for individual store groups. The shares gained 3p to 113p.

**Cope Allman Int in new loan scheme**

Cope Allman International has concluded a £5m 12-year loan, of which half has so far been drawn in order to repay some medium-term loans on which the interest spread was higher than prevailing market rates.

The group has also negotiated two multi-currency facilities, one with Lloyds Bank International for \$8m over seven years and the other with Societe Generale for \$2m over seven years. The latter has been used to finance the purchase of Sunbeam Plastics in the United States.

**Strong recovery at Myson**

The recovery of Myson Group continues apace. Following its rally in the second half of last year, group earnings, heading and conditions, group has turned a loss of £432,000 into a pre-tax profit of £729,000 for the six months to June 30. Turnover rose from £19.4m to £23.8m.

Higher sales levels have continued into the second half, and will be aided by production from the new Cardiff radiator plant and improvements in France. If the good industrial

relations enjoyed in the first half continue, a further improvement is expected in profits for the second half.

**Warning as Jas Beattie soars**

After a good first half-year, James Beattie, the Wolverhampton-based group, says that it faces a much sterner test in the second half, which includes Christmas.

On the back of a rise of 19 per cent in turnover to £12.5m, pre-tax profits have leapt 158 per cent to £986,000 in the six months to July 31.

**Zetters passes £1m mark: outlook good**

Pre-tax profits at Zetters Group have passed the £1m mark for the first time, with a 76 per cent increase to £1.04m in the year to March 31. After deducting bettering and payment of 100p, the group's winners totalling £10.3m, against £5.7m, turnover from the football pool activities went up from £3m to £5.4m. Bingo and cinemas added £3.9m to this, against £2.4m, to give a total of £8.6m against £5.4m.

Earnings a share are up from 4.16p to 7.34p and the dividend is raised from 1.76p to 1.93p.

**Lancia to 'break even'**

From John Earla

A special shareholders' meeting of Fiat in Turin yesterday unanimously approved the reorganisation of Lancia, which will, however, continue to have its own management, models and operational autonomy.

Lancia has been a wholly-owned subsidiary since it was bought in 1969 as a rescue operation for the symbolic price of one lira a share from the cement industrialist, Signor Carlo Pesenti. Since then it has continued to lose money, costing Fiat altogether 214,000m lire (£133m). Signor Giovanni Agnelli, Fiat's chairman, said, however, that this year it will break even.

The move was decided in the framework of Fiat's reorganisation into a holding company. From January 1 its motor car

sector will be hived off into a separate subsidiary company, as has already taken place with its other productive sectors.

Signor Agnelli scotched rumours that he was leaving Fiat preparatory to standing for the European Parliament, handing over to his younger brother, Senator Umberto. Signor Giovanni said that his brother Umberto would in future have more time free from his Parliamentary duties and as vice-chairman would devote himself to the parent holding company's operational management, while he, as chairman, would concern himself with strategy.

**Options**

Taking its lead from the equity market, traded options had a better day yesterday with 897 contracts traded. Grand Metropolitan was the most active stock, but heavyweights BP, from of which shares tomorrow saw plenty of trade.

In conventional options, puts were arranged in BP, Bourne & Hollingsworth and Dunlop while ICI, Fitch Lovell and Barmah among the stocks to have calls produced.

**Edward Le Bas**

Sales for half year to July 1, 1978 (£22m). Pre-tax profit, £253,000 (£212,000). Interim 1.5p gross (1.37p). Profit for year expected to show improvement.

## First-half jump at Ofrex

Promises of record sales and profits for Ofrex Group, manufacturer and distributor of office supplies, were fulfilled with a 45 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.4m for the first half to June 30, 1978.

An interim dividend of 1.75p gross, a 10 per cent increase on last year, has been declared and chairman, Mr. George Drexler, hopes to pay a higher final dividend when the year's results are known. Managing director, Mr. Alfred Andrews said yesterday that he expected the full dividend increase to be around 20 per cent.

The group's results, on sales which have increased by 25 per cent to £20m, include a contribution from Howard Wall, taken over at the end of last

year. Earnings per share jumped to 7.33p from 4.94p. Mr. Drexler said that the group's performance had improved.

Second-half prospects are good, but there is little likelihood that they will match the increase in the first-half result although the group is hoping for a further record pre-tax profits of £3.9m, added 1 Andrews.

Earlier this year, Mr. Drexler said the year's order book was satisfactory and sales at profits, particularly at home, were ahead of last year. But he emphasised the effects of a world recession on exports, which would show a small profits increase during the first half for the group.



47	120	Frederick Parker
53	135	George Blair
58	36	Jackson Group
16	55	James Burrough
40	188	Robert Jenkins
24	9	TwinklOCK Ord
82	54	TwinklOCK 12%- ULS
53	54	UnilOCK Holdings
20	67	Walter Alexander

115	+3	6.5	5.7	10.6
310	—	29.7	9.6	5.1
20	—	—	—	17.9
77	—	12.0	15.6	—
80	—	7.4	9.3	8.6
118xd	+1	7.2	6.1	7.3

[illegible][illegible]



§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]















